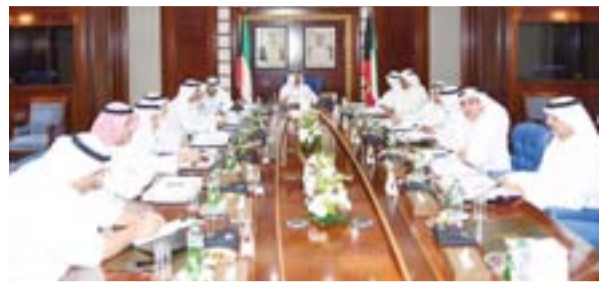




**3** Prime Minister chairs meeting of Supreme Petroleum Council



**20** An existential debate in US food industry: What is meat?



**28** Israel wins Eurovision contest with #MeToo inspired song



**16** Salah sets new league goal tally, scoops Player of the Year prize



# MP claims government not serious in replacing expats

## Lawmaker threatens fifth grilling against Sabeeh

### Amir envoy hands letters to Saudi, Bahraini kings



**KUWAIT:** Envoy of HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah

handed a letter from the Amir to King Salman bin Abdulaziz of Saudi Arabia concerning bilateral relations as well as recent regional and international developments.



Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled then went to Bahrain and handed a letter from HH the Amir to King Hamad bin Isa bin Salman Al-Khalifa. The letter is related to the latest regional and

international developments and issues of mutual interest. The letter was received by Deputy King and Crown Prince Salman bin Hamad Al-Khalifa. — KUNA

By B Izzak

**KUWAIT:** MP Safa Al-Hashem blasted the government yesterday for not giving jobs to unemployed Kuwaitis, saying financial allocations for the appointment of nationals have been reduced while those for expatriates have been raised. The lawmaker added the government is not serious in replacing expatriates in government jobs with Kuwaitis.

Hashem said in last year's budget, financial allocations for new appointments for Kuwaitis were slashed to KD 160 million from KD 185 million in the previous year. At the same time, allocations for expatriate appointments in government jobs were raised to KD 148 million from just KD 117 million in the previous year. She did not provide figures for the current fiscal year which began on April 1, whose budget has not yet been approved by the National Assembly.

The Assembly has elected a special committee to speed up the replacement of expatriates in government jobs with Kuwaitis and the panel has repeatedly complained that the government is not cooperating. Hashem claimed that there are over 4,500 job vacancies in the government, with over 2,500 in the oil sector alone, and authorities have so far failed to fill them with thousands of unemployed Kuwaiti graduates who are waiting for jobs.

Meanwhile, pro-government MP Ahmad Al-Fadhli yesterday threatened Minister of Social Affairs and

**Continued on Page 11**

## Family with kids bombs Indonesia churches; 13 dead

**SURABAYA, Indonesia:** A family of six including two young daughters staged suicide bombings at three Indonesian churches during Sunday services, killing at least 13 people and wounding dozens in attacks claimed by the Islamic State group. The bombings at three churches in Surabaya were Indonesia's deadliest for years, as the world's biggest Muslim-majority country grapples with homegrown militancy and rising intolerance towards religious minorities.

The bombers - a mother and father, two daughters aged nine and 12, and two sons

aged 16 and 18 - were linked to local extremist network Jamaah Ansharut Daulah (JAD) which supports IS, said national police chief Tito Karnavian. Local media reports say they may have returned from Syria, where hundreds of Indonesians have flocked in recent years to fight alongside IS in its bid to carve out a caliphate ruled by strict Islamic law.

The mother, identified as Puji Kuswati, and her two daughters were wearing niqab face veils and had bombs strapped to their waists as they entered the grounds of the Kristen Indonesia Diponegoro Church and blew themselves up, Karnavian said. The father, JAD cell leader Dita Priyanto, drove a bomb-laden car into the Surabaya Centre Pentecostal Church while his sons rode motorcycles into Santa Maria church, where they detonated explosives they were carrying, Karnavian said. "All were suicide attacks but the types of bombs are different," he said.

The group, led by jailed radical Aman Abdurrahman, has been linked to several deadly incidents, including a 2016 gun and suicide attack in the capital Jakarta that left four attackers and four civilians dead. That was the first assault claimed by IS in Southeast Asia. Police yesterday said four suspected JAD members were killed in a shootout during raids linked to a deadly prison riot this week. Five members of Indonesia's elite anti-terrorism squad and a prisoner were killed in clashes that saw Islamist inmates take a guard hostage at a high-security jail on the outskirts of Jakarta. IS claimed responsibility.

Karnavian said yesterday's attacks may have been revenge for the arrest of some of JAD's leaders and for the prison crisis which eventually saw the surrender of the radical inmates.

**Continued on Page 11**



**SURABAYA:** Police and soldiers examine the site following attacks outside the Surabaya Center Pentecostal Church in East Java yesterday. — AFP

## New Saudi TV station part of modernization

**RIYADH:** Saudi Arabia's ambitious reform drive takes another step forward this week, with the launch of a new public TV channel that seeks to lure young viewers and project a modern image beyond the kingdom's borders. Branded "SBC", the channel will broadcast exclusive content including films, talk shows and cooking programs. The move follows the launch earlier this month of a \$35-billion drive to turn Saudi Arabia into a cul-



Dawood Shirian

ture and entertainment hub by 2020.

"This is a general channel that's seeking to attract the new generation of Saudis," said the station's director Dawood Shirian, a frank-talking TV personality who previously

hosted a talk show tapping into the public's gripes. "Most of the content, about 75 percent, is geared toward the youth between 15 and 35 years old," Shirian told AFP, adding that SBC would "complement the changes seen in the kingdom in the artistic, cultural and entertainment spheres".

Shirian was poached late last year from private rival MBC to head up the state-run Saudi Broadcasting Corporation, and to mastermind the launch of SBC. The move was seen as a deliberate shock for the state broadcaster - one in a series of radical changes guided by Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman. The 32-year-old heir to the Saudi throne, who declared to foreign investors in Riyadh last October that his generation

**Continued on Page 11**



**RIYADH:** Fahad Shlaylor, Director General of Production and Programs, talks to an employee at the studio of the new SBC channel on April 24, 2018. — AFP

## Microchips get under the skin of Swedes

**STOCKHOLM:** It's the size of a grain of rice but could hold the key to many aspects of your life. A tiny microchip inserted under the skin can replace the need to carry keys, credit cards and train tickets. That might sound like an Orwellian nightmare to some but in Sweden it is a welcome reality for a growing number who favors convenience over concerns of potential personal data violations. The small implants were first used in 2015 in Sweden - initially confidentially - and several other countries.

Swedes have gone on to be very active in

microchipping, with scant debate about issues surrounding its use, in a country keen on new technology and where the sharing of personal information is held up as a sign of a transparent society. Twenty-eight year-old Ulrika Celsing is one of 3,000 Swedes to have injected a microchip into her hand to try out a new way of life. To enter her workplace, the media agency Mindshare, she simply waves her hand on a small box and types in a code before the doors open. "It was fun to try something new and to see what one could use it for to make life easier in the future," she told AFP.

In the past year, the chip has turned into a kind of electronic handbag and has even replaced her gym card, she said. If she wanted to, she could also use it to book train tickets. Sweden's SJ national railway company has won over some 130 users to its microchip reservation service in a year. Conductors scan passengers' hands after they book tick-

ets online and register them on their chip.

Sweden has a track record on the sharing of personal information, which may have helped ease the microchip's acceptance among the Nordic country's 10 million-strong population. Citizens have long accepted the sharing of their personal details, registered by the social security system, with other administrative bodies, while people can find out each others' salaries through a quick phone call to the tax authority.

The implants use Near Field Communication (NFC) technology, also used in credit cards, and are "passive", which means they hold data that can be read by other devices but cannot read information themselves. Although still small, they have the capacity to hold train tickets, entry pass codes as well as access certain vending machines and printers, promoters say.

**Continued on Page 11**



**STOCKHOLM:** A man reacts as he gets a chip implant in his hand during a chip implant event at Epicenter, a technological hub, on Jan 18, 2018. — AFP

## Local

# Crown Prince receives senior state officials at Seif Palace

## Army Chief of Staff meets Qatari General; Defense Undersecretary meets US envoy



KUWAIT: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Speaker of National Assembly Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem. — KUNA photos



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with the Minister of Interior Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah.

local spotlight

## Korean lesson



By Muna Al-Fuzal

Muna@kuwaittimes.net

The historic reconciliation between North and South Korea has become a global event that we Arabs need to perceive and discern its objectives and future outcomes. I believe the meeting of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in is a lesson in contemporary foreign policy, and we need to study its dimensions and who is the actual beneficiary.

We cannot look deeply at the issue of North and South Korea and the history of the two countries without the American role in the past and present. Clearly, the US foreign policy today is not the policy of yesterday and there are no more common lines that everyone expects, especially since recent US positions towards global issues such as climate change and the Iranian nuclear agreement mean a radical change in goals and plans.

But this new change led Korean leaders to a rare opportunity for gathering and talking peace for strength and survival, not only of their authorities, but of the Korean state, its principles, future and peoples, who have suffered greatly from separation.

When the leaders of the two Koreas decided to meet and look forward to the future, the preparations for this grand meeting went easily and smoothly, and in record time the two leaders met at the "Peace Palace" in the border area of Panmunjon between the two Koreas to launch a peace agreement aimed at bringing together the two brotherly nations.

The pictures and statements issued by the North and South leaders show determination to complete this peaceful initiative to protect the homeland and people. Is there a better target than this? I believe that this is the true Korean wisdom that makes me respect and appreciate the recent meeting of the two leaders.

If we think about the matter logically, we find that this is the natural course and results assumed by brothers to get closer, seeking agreement and not differences.

Now, regardless of what has been said about the parties that helped to secure the meeting of the Korean leaders - that it was a result of Chinese advice, I see no harm in governments listening to friends in order to avoid their peoples the agony of differences and wastage of wealth.

When Kuwait was invaded in 1990 by the Iraqi regime, Arab brothers, including Syria at that time, helped and supported Kuwait, except for a few countries. The fact of the matter is that Syria embraced many Kuwaitis until the return of legitimacy to Kuwait, and the Arab League played an important role in spreading the importance of defending Kuwait and regional unity, until the international coalition led by the US liberated Kuwait.

Today we in the Arab region are confronting many challenges as well as sectarian and ethnic strife, and we need concessions, unity and agreement for the sake of all peoples of the region and the future, to live in peace and harmony.

Arab countries need to set new priorities that benefit the interests of their peoples, and the first is combating terrorism and extremism in a real and radical way and upgrading the quality of education.

At the beginning of this article, I wondered who the actual beneficiaries of the Korean detente are. The answer is simple. It is the people of the state and its wealth.

This new convergence may lead in the future to a reunification of Korea and end the division, so the two Koreas will constitute a powerful force that may lead to a significant imposition of a new agenda on global politics. It's really an important Korean lesson that we should not ignore.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh.



Kuwait's Army Chief of General Staff Lieutenant General Mohammad Al-Khuder meets with Qatari Air Force Commander Hamad Al-Nabit.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Speaker of National Assembly Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem at Seif Palace yesterday. His Highness also received His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh.

Meanwhile, Kuwait's Army Chief of General Staff Lieutenant General Mohammad Al-Khuder received yesterday the visiting Qatari Air Force Commander Hamad Al-Nabit and his accompanying delegation. During the meeting, the two generals discussed important and common matters, especially in the military field, the Kuwaiti Ministry of Defense said in a press statement. The meeting was attended by several high-ranking Kuwaiti army officers, it added. Separately,

Undersecretary of the Ministry of Defense Sheikh Ahmad Mansour Al-Sabah met with the American



## Deputy FM meets Saudi, Filipino officials

Ambassador to Kuwait Lawrence Silverman, and discussed ways of developing bilateral military cooperation.

tion. Sheikh Ahmad Al-Mansour strongly praised the bilateral ties between the two friendly countries, and mutual willingness to strengthen and reinforce them, the Kuwaiti Ministry of Defense said in a press statement. During the meeting, the two sides discussed important and common matters, it added.

In other news, Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah met with the new Saudi Ambassador to Kuwait Sultan Al Saud. The meeting discussed the bilateral relations between the two countries, and the latest regional and international developments.

Jarallah also met the Presidential Adviser on Overseas Filipino Workers Abdullah Mama-o and his accompanying delegation. The meeting discussed the steps which have been taken by both sides and the ways to put them in place. The talks were attended by senior officials at the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry. —KUNA

## Kuwait praised for hosting 'Capital of Arab Youth'

CAIRO: Kuwait's Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Mohammad Al-Jabri said yesterday that his country's hosting of 'Capital of Arab Youth 2017-2018' event was received with praise. Jabri made his remarks on the sidelines of the 62nd session of the Executive Office of the Council of Arab Ministers of Youth and Sports in Cairo, Egypt. The organized youth programs and activities left a very positive impression on all 17 Arab countries that took part in the event, which concluded in April, said the Kuwaiti minister.

Furthermore, Jabri expressed his confidence in Egypt's capability of succeeding and exerting further efforts to host the 'Capital of Arab Youth 2018-2019' after Cairo received the event's banner from Kuwait. It is important to contribute in the success of youth-related programs due to youngsters' efficiency in all communities, he said, noting that a special ceremony is currently underway in Egypt to celebrate the event.

Meanwhile, Jabri said the 62nd session reviewed agendas of previous meetings of financial and technical committees, awaiting their approval by the 41st meeting of Council of Arab Ministers of Youth and Sports, slated for today at Arab League headquarters. The session also addressed forming plans and strategies for youth and sports ministries in Arab countries, in addition to boosting coordination towards Arab youth-related issues, he noted.

In other news, the Cultural Office of the Kuwaiti Embassy held on Saturday an honoring ceremony for the Kuwaitis graduated from Egyptian universities for the academic year 2017-18. In a speech at the ceremony, Fatma Senan, representative of Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Hamed Al-Azmi, lauded the comprehensive renaissance witnessed by Kuwait's educational sector, thanks to the wise vision of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

She referred to the role by His Highness the Amir in supporting the country's sons and daughters to complete their studies, which provide them with knowledge and science and other skills. Such things enable the Kuwaiti graduates to contribute to the march of development and prosperity in the country in all domains, she noted. She expressed her gratitude to Egyptian officials who helped these people be able to face the future's challenges, in line with highest scientific standards so as to continue development in both public and private sectors.

Meanwhile, Kuwait's Ambassador to Egypt Mohammad Al-Thuwaijk stressed that Kuwait has been sparing no efforts to back its citizens studying abroad, urging them to continue education and learning to benefit their country. Speaking in a statement on the sidelines of the ceremony, the ambassador congratulated the fresh graduates and their families on this occasion. Ahmad Al-Mutairi, head of the office, told the graduates that they would be the future, saying "If you are part of present, you will be the entire future." He affirmed that the country remains strengthened, strong and stable by the hands of its citizens who contribute to its development and progress. He lauded all efforts made to help these nationals graduate in order to start practical life, stressing that the country is waiting their contributions and skills. —KUNA

## Arab League commends Amir as 'humanitarian stalwart'

CAIRO: Secretary-General of the Arab League Ahmad Abul-Gheit said yesterday that His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah is a key stalwart of political and humanitarian action at both Arab and global levels. His Highness the Amir is sparing no effort in helping many Arab, Islamic and friendly countries, and is renowned for shouldering great tasks, Abul-Gheit said in a speech delivered on his behalf by the league's culture department chief Mohammad Al-Hajri during a ceremony held to honor His Highness the Amir. The event was held under the rubric: "Honoring of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah...Man of Peace...Humanitarian Leader," in the presence of Arab, Kuwaiti, regional and international figures. He applauded His Highness the Amir's keenness on attending Arab and Gulf summits just out of interest in necessarily discussing different Arab issues with other leaders. He also spoke highly of His Highness the Amir's large political experience in running political and humanitarian crises and problems. Since it jointed the Arab League in 1961, the State of Kuwait has been playing a key role in buttressing and backing common Arab action during regional and international gatherings, he noted.

Meanwhile, Chairperson of Kuwait Women's Institute for Development and Peace Kathwar Al-Jowaan said His Highness the Amir has established the pillars of a fresh philosophy in humanitarian activities, based on the spirit of responsibility, credibility and respect of human dignity and rights. Speaking at the ceremony, she said the world honoring of His Highness the Amir is considered a Kuwaiti achievement at the international level, and historic recognition of the State of Kuwait and its leader and people. The UN's honoring of His Highness the Amir was undoubtedly due to his great efforts in the humanitarian area, she pointed out. Kuwait has extended help to world countries regardless of religion, color and race, Jowaan boasted. The event featured a documentary and a seminar on the experience of Kuwait and His Highness the Amir in supporting world peace. —KUNA



CAIRO: Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Mohammad Al-Jabri attends the 62nd session of the Executive Office of the Council of Arab Ministers of Youth and Sports. —KUNA

Local

# Prime Minister chairs Supreme Petroleum Council's Meeting

## KNPC operates flare gas recovery unit at Mina Abdullah



Kuwait National Petroleum Company staff and other officials pose for a group picture during a press conference yesterday.



KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah chairs the 118th Supreme Petroleum Council's meeting. — KUNA

KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah presided over the 118th Supreme Petroleum Council meeting at Seif Palace yesterday. The Council discussed the items on its agenda.

In other news, Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) yesterday started full operation of the flare gas recovery unit 49 at the Mina Abdullah Refinery (MAB). Construction of the facility began in August 2014, with a

budget of KD 21.63 million (\$71.83 million), MAB's CEO Mutlaq Al-Azmi told a press conference. Work lasted for 3.08 million hours with no lost time accidents, he said. Azmi noted that the unit's design capacity is 10 million cubic feet of gas daily in the first phase of operation, and could be later raised to 15 million cubic feet per day.

The chief goal of the facility is to curb emissions, reducing the impact of the Refinery's operations on the

environment. This is integral to KNPC's environmental and social role, as well as commitment to the relevant local and world standards, Azmi said. Unit 49 has advanced technology which will help reduce carbon dioxide emissions by about 91,736 metric tons annually, he added.

Team Leader, Mechanical Maintenance, MAB, Mohammad Al-Marzouq said meanwhile that the scope of work included building the entire facility, mainly com-

prising two compressors with other extensions, mechanical equipment and piping works. The unit will recover up to 10 million cubic feet of the hydrocarbon materials emitted from the Refinery. They will be recycled instead of being burnt in the open air, turning into burning fuel to use in heating operations at MAB, saving massive amounts of natural gas, Marzouq explained. Annual revenues are estimated at \$5 million a year. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Ambassador of India to Kuwait Jeeva Sagar visited Kuwait Times yesterday and met with Editor-in-Chief Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

## Kuwait's KAFO hosts 500 Startups 'Investor Day'



KUWAIT: An activity held during the 'Investor Day' event organized recently by Kuwait Achievers and Future Opportunities (KAFO) in cooperation with US 500 Startups. — KUNA

KUWAIT: Kuwait Achievers and Future Opportunities (KAFO), a leading youth initiative of Kuwait's Amiri Diwan, has held an 'Investor Day' event in cooperation with US 500 Startups, it was announced yesterday. KAFO initiative has been launched in a bid to achieve His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's vision to establish a national platform to enable young achievers to search, connect and collaborate with each other, in line with recommendations of the National Project of Youth. Dr Fatima Al-Moussawi, Project Manager of KAFO said in a press statement on the event that was held on Thursday. She voiced pleasure for cooperating with the Silicon-Valley based 500 Startups, most active early-stage Venture Capital Fund in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.

KAFO aims to empower Kuwaiti youth, and to offer national efficiencies the opportunity to enhance their skills, help them launch their own ventures, and to grow on the local and the world level, she noted. 500 Startups invests in 12 startups in the MENA region, Egypt, Lebanon, the UAE, Qatar and Kuwait. They were hand-picked and mentored by a team of international experts from 500 Startups as part of the MENA Dojo Series A.

According to Moussawi, a second batch of new startups received up to USD 150,000 funding from the 500 Falcons, a 500 Startups MENA fund. These new 12 include Eyewa, online glasses and contact

lenses retailer; GymNadz, fitness app for millennials; Keno, on-demand car wash app; La Reina, marketplace for renting dresses; at home doc, medical service app; Melltoo, second hand goods marketplace app; Mr Draper, personalized clothing stylists for men; MyU, education platform for parents, teachers and students; Nawah, scientific outsourced laboratory service; Plantshop, online nursery commerce; SocialDice, HR platform for recruiters; and VBOUT, marketing technology platform.

The 500 Startups Venture Partner for Middle East, Hassan Haider said the ventures were picked according to "our experts' ability to help progress and grow," and not on the viability of investing in them. The MENA Dojo Series A growth hacking program was held in two modules for the 12 seed and post-seed regional companies in Kuwait.

The first module was held from April 1-12 and the second module is currently underway from April 29-9 May. The topics discussed during the intense training program involved developing a scaleable growth machine to boost exponential growth, Haider said. With the first investment in the MENA region in 2012, 500 Startups has since committed to investments in over 80 startups across the region. With the launch of 500 Falcons in 2017, 500 Startups plans to invest in approximately 100-150 companies over a three-year period in addition to follow-on investments into the top performing companies. — KUNA

# Kuwait Times

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## Local

# Amir congratulates new Municipal Council members

## Ten-member council elected in 'smooth voting process'

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent cables of congratulations to the winning candidates of the 2018 Municipal Council Elections on Saturday night. He expressed best wishes for the new members of the Council to be able to contribute to the prosperity and welfare of the dear homeland.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables to the newly elected Council members.

His Highness the Amir also commended efforts of government employees during 2018 Municipal Elections, contributing to smooth voting process, and their service for their country. His Highness the Amir thanked all staff of Ministry of Interior, Higher Judicial Committee supervising the elections, Ministry of Information, Ministry of Health, General Fire Directorate and Kuwait Municipality.

Chairman of the electoral committee Justice Essam Al-Saddani said the Municipal Council elections have

been held in free and democratic atmospheres that reflected the civilized nature of Kuwait. Announcing the results of the Municipal Council Elections 2018 on Saturday night, he said the ten winning candidates are as follows:

Hassan Kamal won 2,099 votes out of 17,997 eligible voters in the first constituency; Abdullah Al-Mehri won 3,550 votes out of 24,537 eligible voters in the second constituency; Abdulaziz Al-Mejel won 1,985 votes out of 30,651 eligible voters in the third constituency; Hamad Al-Medlej got 4,108 votes out of 75,560 eligible voters in the fourth constituency; Abdullah Al-Roumi won 5,336 votes out of 36,722 eligible voters in the fifth constituency; Fheid Al-Rashidi won 7,329 votes out of 50,247 eligible voters in the sixth constituency;

Mohammad Al-Mutairi won 8,480 votes out of 58,479 eligible voters in the seventh constituency; Ahmad Al-Enezi won 8,109 votes out of 77,614 eligible voters in the eighth constituency; Ali Al-Azmi won 8,702 votes out of 70,277 eligible voters in the ninth constituency; Hamdi Al-Azmi got 10,755 votes out of 78,552 eligible voters in the 10th constituency. A total of 73 candidates, including one female, stood for the elections that ran smoothly and orderly at 102 polling stations countrywide. —KUNA

### Amir commends employees' efforts



KUWAIT: The main hall inside the Municipal Council in Kuwait City. —KUNA archive

## NBK capital launches 'Go Green' initiative to recycle paper waste

**KUWAIT:** As part of its commitment to the environment and the promotion of its corporate social responsibility as the first environmentally friendly company in Kuwait and the region, NBK capital has launched the 'Go Green' initiative to recycle paper waste in various departments and departments of the company.

The initiative is part of a series of innovative programs and campaigns launched by NBK capital in the field of environmental protection and conservation of basic environmental resources, including participation in various national campaigns, as well as their active participation in the annual environmental awareness campaigns, which include many activities and events aimed at protecting the environment and achieving sustainable development.

Commenting on the launch of this initiative, NBK capital stated in a press release that the paper recycling initiative was very much admired by all employees who are keen to use the special funds to collect paper waste in their offices. Enthusiasm and creative ideas in all of the

departments of NBK Capital added to the success of the campaign.

"We are aware of the importance of preserving and protecting the environment in order to keep up with the new concept of economic development based on sustainable development that can meet the needs of the present without compromising the requirements of the future," the statement reads. "This means achieving development with minimal pollution, environmental damage and minimal consumption of natural resources, and economic development in all departments."

Pointing out that NBK's initiative is one of the first environmental initiatives in the recycling of waste paper at the level of investment companies. It is part of the social responsibility initiatives aimed at contributing to maintaining a clean environment.

The activity encouraged many employees to recycle their paper waste and put them in the designated recycling 'Go Green' bins distributed in premises of the company for recycling, which increases the awareness of environment preservation.

The company concluded in the press release saying that the continuation of the initiatives 'Go Green' added to the success of the preservation of the environment without pollutants, as part of the comprehensive social responsibility programs of the company to instill the spirit of preserving the environment in the staff.



KUWAIT: NBK Capital's 'Go Green' team.

## KIB celebrates its employees at IBS graduation ceremony

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait International Bank (KIB) celebrated its employees at the annual graduation ceremony for the Institute of Banking Studies (IBS) for the year 2016-2017. Held under the patronage of Mohammad Yousef Al-Hashel, Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait and Chairman of the IBS, the ceremony took place recently at the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

A total 19 employees successfully completed different levels and training programs offered by IBS, as part of their career development program designed to develop critical skills needed to progress in their given roles.

General Manager of the Human Resources Department at KIB, Anthony John Erasmus, said: "At KIB, we provide ongoing training and development opportunities to our employees, with the goal of taking them to the next level and equipping them with the tools needed to deliver exceptional banking services. We continue to focus on devoting a major part of our strategic plans to human capital development, as we believe that people are the core component of our strength."

Erasmus also congratulated the new graduates and wished them best of luck in their careers at KIB. Through its revamped Talent Management Division, the Bank has witnessed positive results and significantly higher engagement across all levels of its departments.

KIB actively strives to create a sustainable high performance culture enabling it to cultivate a skilled and motivated workforce. By investing heavily in its talent management activities, KIB is endeavoring to become increasingly performance-centric to foster a culture of excellence from within.



## KFH holds training program for new batch of recruits

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Finance House (KFH) inaugurated a comprehensive training program for a new batch of recruits at their Contact Center in a continuous effort to provide career opportunities for young graduates and professionals, enrich their banking knowledge and put them on track to be well equipped and prepared to assume the responsibility of optimally serving customers.

"The training program was designed to prepare the employees to get fully functional in banking transactions and financial services at KFH Contact Center to better serve customers and cater for their aspirations," said Group Chief Human Resources Officer at KFH, Frederick Jacobus Carstens.

He indicated, on the sidelines of inaugurating the program that such training programs contribute in maintaining

a high level of knowledge regarding the rapidly growing array of products and services, while addressing challenges and removing barriers that face employees at work. Moreover, Carstens urged trainees to provide extra efforts, raising the service level to the highest international standards of service quality while striving towards pursuing leadership positions.

Carstens pointed out that employee training and development is an important factor for all industries as it helps keep employee and organizational goals aligned. Ongoing skills development boosts productivity, increases customer satisfaction and market leadership.

Meanwhile, Amani Al-Merri, an official at the National Labor Force Development Department at Manpower and Government Restructuring Program - MGRP hailed KFH in recognition of its efforts in training the national labor through comprehensive training plans, praising its commitment towards qualifying and honing the skills of its human resources and Kuwaiti youth. It is worth noting that the program encompassed training courses and workshops on banking products, such as: banking cards, bank accounts, deposits, letters of guarantee, and KFH services. In addition, the program tackles subjects on sharia basics, IT systems, and the skills of offering superior customer service.



## Ahli United Bank sponsors 'Move 2 Improve' program

**KUWAIT:** Ahli United Bank (AUB) announced that it has sponsored the 'Move 2 Improve' program, which was held recently at the Jumeirah Messila Beach Hotel under the patronage of Khaled Al-Rowdhan, Minister of State for Youth Affairs. The program, which reflects the bank's social responsibility strategy, helps promote social integration amongst all members of society through highlighting the outstanding achievements of gifted special needs individuals and honoring them as talented champions in various areas.

The program included more than 750 individuals from Kuwait and the GCC who participated in this year's event, which incorporated a variety of activities designed to integrate with the special needs of the par-

ticipants. The sessions were both popular and creative, emphasizing social integration and cohesion.

Sahar Dashti, AUB's Deputy General Manager having overall responsibility for coordinating the bank's social responsibility program, said, "At AUB, we believe that a successful organization must enjoy an effective corporate social responsibility program to be sustainable for the longer term. Our initiatives include using innovation to find creative and value added solutions to the challenges we face in our society. The ultimate aim is to build elements of sustainable development as well as credibility and trust in society. AUB is committed to developing and executing best practice methods of social responsibility, a core component of our Corporate Governance framework."

The 'Move 2 Improve' program aims to educate the community about the abilities of talented people with special needs as well as promoting the principle of social integration through broadcasting concepts and methods of integration in a specialized simplified manner. AUB continues to demonstrate its commitment towards introducing innovative social initiatives with an objective of providing more value across the social community in Kuwait.



Local

# Suspect stabbed Oyoun man five weeks after killing his father

## Children, domestic helper hospitalized after Ardiya house fire

By Hanan Al-Saadoun and Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Jahra detectives arrested the prime suspect in the murder of a middle-aged Kuwaiti man in Oyoun in early April. The suspect was able to remain at large for five weeks, before he stabbed the victim's son during a heated fight recently. The man escaped following the fight, leaving the victim fighting for his life, before he was rushed to Jahra Hospital's ICU. Detectives collected data about the suspect from those who were present during the fight in front of the victim's house, and he was arrested. He said that he stabbed his neighbor's son due to personal disputes, and while being interrogated, he confessed to killing the victim's father five weeks ago due to old disputes. He was sent to concerned authorities.

### Ardiya house fire

Fire broke out in an Ardiya house, trapping several people including three children. Firefighters from

the Ardiya and Farwaniya fire stations responded to an emergency call reporting the fire, and managed to put the blaze under control, while a rescue team evacuated the trapped people. The children and a domestic helper were handed to paramedics who transferred them to the nearest medical facility.

### Working hours

The Interior Ministry's traffic department yesterday announced that official working hours in Ramadan will be from 10 am to 2:30 pm and 2 pm to 6 pm in the vehicle registration, driving licenses, technical testing (car inspection), traffic violation investigation and driving test departments. The directorate added that vehicle inspection com-



panies will operate from 10 am to 2:30 pm and 8:30 am to 11:30 pm.

### Commercial Fraud

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) announced in a statement yesterday that the ministry's consumer protection inspectors in Siddiq raided a paper tissue factory in Ahmadi and filed a commercial fraud citation against it. The statement explained that inspectors had been tipped off concerning the factory's activity, noting that the paper tissue boxes it produced indicate that each box has 150 tissues, while they only include 40. The statement said inspectors confiscated 10,000 boxes

ready for distribution to various markets and outlets and stressed that further legal measures are being taken against the factory.

### 'Breach of trust'

Hawally detectives rescued a citizen from a 'breach of trust' case after a car rental office accused him of renting a vehicle and not returning it, only to discover it was a malicious claim. A person from the office lodged a complaint at a police station stating that a citizen rented a car and did not return it since three days. Detectives summoned the citizen, who said he rented the car, but was stopped by traffic police the same day and the car was impounded, adding that he informed the car rental office, paid the rental charges to an employee and asked him to get the car released. Detectives found that the citizen's statements were true, and an office employee admitted he got the car released and had received the rental charges. Investigations are ongoing to find out why the office acted in that way.

## Traffic department announces Ramadan timings

## MoI still handles domestic labor recruitment

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Economic Development Hind Al-Sabeeh said the Cabinet's decision to transfer the domestic help department from the Ministry of Interior (MoI) to the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor (MSAL) needs some time to be put into practice. Sabeeh added that further meetings will be held between MoI and the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) to discuss the transfer. She also noted that MoI is still responsible for recruiting domestic labor until the transfer proceedings are complete.

### Labor cities

Well informed sources at the Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects (KAPP) said that a committee entrusted with setting the conditions booklet of the labor cities project is about to complete and send it to the Fatwa and Legislation Department for review. The sources added that once reviewed, the booklet will be sent to international consortiums and local companies that have been already qualified to file their technical and financial bids.

### Hospital expansion

Health Minister Sheikh Dr Bassel Al-Sabah said the third phase of the Amiri Hospital expansion project will be concluded on Nov 21, noting that the contract had been extended without costing the health ministry any extra charges. He explained that the project costs KD 98 million to add 415 beds to the hospital's bed capacity. He also noted that 76.6 percent of the project has been completed.

### Contractors' claims

The total claims made by contractors working with Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) has reached around KD 1 billion, said informed sources, noting that 80 percent of these claims (around KD 843.6 million) are still subject to studies.

### New companies

Nine new foreign companies have started operating in Kuwait under the umbrella of the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) to invest in various fields and sectors such as services, IT, communications, maintenance services, healthcare, renewable energy and others, said informed sources. The sources added that over 26 entities belonging to 18 different nationalities had invested over KD 383 million since 2017, after KDIPA managed to attract over KD 720 million in investments since 2015 with plans to increase it to KD 1.7 billion by 2021.

## Demographic imbalance: Ball thrown in parliament's court

KUWAIT: Security sources described actions taken so far by the interior ministry to address the demographic imbalance problem as lacking, saying that the ministry has passed the buck to the National Assembly to issue legislations to pave the way for other recommendations to be realized, especially with regards to increasing fees for residency permits and punishing those who urge domestic helpers to escape from their sponsors' homes.

The interior ministry implemented several recommendations related to this issue, Al-Rai daily reported yesterday quoting the sources. Such recommendations include increasing

crackdowns against residency violators, linking the validity of the residency permit with that of the passport, reducing the number of visit and domestic help visas for citizens and expats to three instead of five and gave a grace period to residency violators, resulting in nearly 20,000 leaving the country, as such achievements are carried out with ministerial decrees and do not need legislation.

The sources said other matters the ministry could not implement are related to fees, including increasing residency fees by up to 100 percent, increasing residency violation fines to KD 4 to a maximum of KD 1,000 and increasing the minimum salary required to KD 450 for family visas, which requires legislations. The ministry implemented some recommendations by the higher committee for the study of demographic imbalance, and could not implement others, said the sources, adding that the law is lacking with regards to punishing those who urge domestic helpers to escape from their sponsors' homes as the case was with Filipino workers lately, and the National Assembly must legislate punishments.

## International Monetary Fund Middle East Center for Economics and Finance Kuwait

### Vacancy Announcement "Office Administrator"

Applications are being solicited for the position of Office Administrator at the IMF-Middle East Center for Economics and Finance (CEF) located in Kuwait. The CEF is part of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) with a mission to strengthen the skills of public sector officials from Arab League countries in economics and finance through the delivery of training courses and seminars. This is a full-time position with an initial appointment term of two-years (renewable), and carries a competitive salary and benefits package commensurate with the successful candidate's experience and qualifications.

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- Ability to manage multi-task, meet deadlines, and work under pressure with minimum supervision.
- Ability to exhibit a high degree of initiative, tact, and judgment in handling confidential information and challenging situations.
- Excellent interpersonal skills and ability to deal with diverse groups of people.
- Strong database skills and ability to access, retrieve, and generate reports using CEF specific networks.
- Strong communication and presentation skills in Arabic and English.

Closing date of the application is May 27, 2018.

Interested candidates can submit their CVs to the following email:

[cefinfo@imf.org](mailto:cefinfo@imf.org)

## Lawyer files complaint over 'fake news'

KUWAIT: Lawyer Fawzia Al-Sabah filed a complaint with the director of the e-crimes detectives against some social media networks that had carried fake news with her name in the case of losing the T-MAS company file from the court without verifying the story or being professionally accurate, which had affected her reputation and status. She said she supports freedom of the media on condition that it does not go beyond limits and slanders other individuals. She added that all those working in the news business should be accurate and meticulous in the news they publish in order to avoid legal accountability.

## 'Kuwait offers quality healthcare'

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Health (MoH) is keen on providing quality health care for citizens but not in a way that waste public fund neither illegal, Undersecretary Dr Mustafa Redha said Saturday. Redha was commenting on problems with a contract for health insurance for the retirees, where the company that won the bid refused to sign the contract. He said that failure of the company to sign the contract created legal problems. "Therefore, the Ministry of Health will examine the administrative and legal aspects of the issue to reach a sound legal opinion," he added. —KUNA

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Iran 'may remain' committed part of nuke accord

## Bahrain bars members of opposition groups from standing in polls

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PARIS: A journalist films in Monsigny street in Paris, on the site where a knifeman killed one man and wounded four other people. An attacker crying 'Allahu akbar' (God is Great) killed one person and wounded four others on the streets of Paris on May 12, 2018 evening before being shot dead by police. —AFP

# Man goes on stabbing spree in Paris

## Islamic State group claims responsibility

PARIS: Investigators yesterday were probing the background of a 20-year-old Frenchman born in Chechnya who killed one man and wounded four other people during a stabbing spree in central Paris, for which the Islamic State group claimed responsibility. The Saturday night attack in a lively area of theatres and restaurants near the city's historic opera house was the latest in a series of apparent Islamist strikes in France that have killed some 245 people since 2015. Panic broke out on the busy Rue Monsigny with people fleeing into bars and restaurants as the man walked along stabbing people, yelling "Allahu akbar" ("God is greatest") before police shot him dead.

Police identified the assailant as Khamzat A., who grew up with his family in Strasbourg, eastern France, a source close to the inquiry said. The city is home to a large community of refugees from the Muslim Russian republic of Chechnya. He became a French citizen in 2010 after his mother was naturalized, government spokesman Benjamin Griveaux told French television. Russian news reports said the Russian embassy in Paris was pressing French officials for more information on the knifeman, whose parents have been taken into custody for questioning in Paris.

Although Khamzat had no criminal record, he had been on both of France's main watchlists for suspected radicals—the so-called "S file" as well as a more targeted File for the Prevention of Terrorist

Radicalisation (FSPRT), which focuses on people judged to be terror threats—since 2016. One source said he had been questioned by anti-terror investigators last year "because he knew a man who was in contact with a person who had gone to Syria." Hundreds of Chechens have joined Islamic militant groups in the Middle East, North Africa and elsewhere in recent years. The Islamic State group said one of its "soldiers" had carried out the Paris attack, according to the SITE monitoring organization, but provided no evidence to back their claim.

### 'He looked crazy'

Witnesses described dramatic scenes as the knifeman struck. "I was taking orders and I saw a young woman trying to get into the restaurant in panic," Jonathan, a waiter at a Korean restaurant said. The woman was bleeding and a young man fended off the assailant who then ran away, he said. "The attacker entered a shopping street, I saw him with a knife in his hand," he said. "He looked crazy." Milan, 19, said he saw "several people in distress" including a woman with wounds to her neck and leg. "Firemen were giving her first

aid. I heard two, three shots and a policeman told me that the man had been overpowered."

A 29-year-old man was killed in the attack, while a Luxembourg man aged 34 and a woman of 54 were seriously wounded and rushed to hospital. A 26-year-old woman and a man of 31 were slightly wounded. Interior Minister Gerard Collomb later told reporters that all four people injured were out of danger.

China's Xinhua news agency reported that a Chinese citizen was among the injured, citing the Chinese embassy in Paris. French President Emmanuel Macron tweeted: "France has once again paid the price in blood but will not give an inch to the enemies of freedom."

### 'No such thing as zero risk'

The attack again underscored the difficulty in keeping track of suspected extremists by police facing thousands of potential risks, either from homegrown radicals or people who have immigrated to the country. The FSPRT watchlist alone currently has nearly 20,000 people, of whom about half are under active surveillance. As has happened after previous suspected jihadist attacks, some

lawmakers urged the government to do more to protect people from Islamic extremists. "Once again we learn that a terrorist was in the S file. What good does this S file do if we don't use it to get these ticking time bombs off French soil," far-right leader Marine Le Pen posted on Twitter. But Griveaux defended the government's efforts, saying it had foiled 22 planned terror attacks over the past 15 months. "Unfortunately, there's no such thing as zero risk, and those who say that measures taken out of a hat would fix this problem are lying," he said. France has suffered a series of major Islamist attacks including the massacre at the satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo, the November 2015 attacks that killed 130 in Paris, and the 2016 Bastille Day truck attack in Nice that killed more than 80.

There have also been a string of less deadly attacks by lone wolf jihadists wielding knives or guns. Most of the attacks have either been claimed by the Islamic State group or been carried out in their name. A state of emergency put in place just after the 2015 Paris attacks was lifted in October when Macron's centrist government passed a new law boosting the powers of security forces. Thousands of French troops remain on the streets under an anti-terror operation known as Sentinelle, patrolling transport hubs, tourist hotspots and other sensitive sites. —AFP



## French police seek clues of knifeman

## Israelis march, bask in national pride ahead of US embassy move

JERUSALEM: Israelis basked in national pride and pro-American fervor yesterday as tens of thousands participated in a Jerusalem march, a day ahead of the controversial US embassy move to the disputed city. Palestinians meanwhile readied for their own protests today over the embassy's inauguration, including another mass demonstration in the Gaza Strip near the border with Israel. Yesterday's Jerusalem march began a week of high tension between Israelis and Palestinians, highlighted by the embassy inauguration to be attended by a Washington delegation including US President Donald Trump's daughter Ivanka and her husband, senior White House adviser Jared Kushner. Both arrived in Israel yesterday.

The embassy move will take place on the 70th anniversary of Israel's founding, while the following day Palestinians will mark the Nakba, or "catastrophe," commemorating the more than 700,000 Palestinians who fled or were expelled in the 1948 war surrounding Israel's creation. Palestinian protests are also planned for tomorrow. For Israelis, yesterday was Jerusalem Day, an annual celebration of the "reunification" of the city following the 1967 Six-Day War. Israel occupied the West Bank and east Jerusalem in 1967. It later annexed east Jerusalem in a move never recognized by the international community. This year's celebration took on added significance due to the embassy move the following day. The annual march to the Western Wall included many hardline religious nationalists who oppose a Palestinian state.

Marchers dressed in white held Israeli flags as they filed through central Jerusalem toward the Old City



JERUSALEM: Israeli nationalist settlers wave their national flag as they celebrate the Jerusalem Day at the Old City's Damascus gate in Jerusalem yesterday. —AFP

with music blaring, including the song "Toy" by Israel's Netta Barzilai, who won the Eurovision Song Contest early yesterday. Some had American flags, while banners celebrating US President Donald Trump were hung by a pro-Israel evangelical Christian organization. Speaking to journalists in the Old City, Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat hailed the US embassy move as the beginning of "a new world order and new order in the Middle East." He called on more countries to join Guatemala and Paraguay in "following the US leadership" and moving their embassies.

### 'Capital of our people'

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu bolstered in recent days by Trump's withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal—opened a special cabinet meeting at Jerusalem's Bible Lands Museum by again lauding the embassy move. "Jerusalem is mentioned in the Bible approximately 650 times," Netanyahu said.

"The reason is simple: For over 3,000 years it has been the capital of our people, and only of our people." Police and the Israeli military planned major security deployments. Around 1,000 police officers will be positioned around the US embassy and surrounding neighborhoods for Monday's inauguration, said spokesman Micky Rosenfeld. Israel's army said it would almost double the number of troops surrounding the Gaza Strip and in the occupied West Bank.

Yesterday, scuffles broke out between Israelis visiting the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in east Jerusalem's Old City, known to Jews as the Temple Mount, and Palestinian security officers. The government of Jordan, which is the custodian of the site, sent a letter of protest to the Israeli foreign ministry condemning this as a "provocation by extremists", a spokesman said. Jews are allowed to visit the site but not pray there to avoid provoking tensions and police said a number of visitors were removed for not following the rules. —AFP

## Iraq counts votes as record abstentions hit first post-IS poll

BAGHDAD: Iraq tallied votes yesterday as record abstentions dealt a blow to a political elite reviled for its perceived corruption, in the country's first national poll since it defeated the Islamic State group. The counting process to determine the makeup of the 329-seat parliament was expected to take days—and the horse-trading to form a new government far longer.

But what has emerged already is that many across the war-scarred nation are fed up with the establishment that has dominated since the 2003 US-led ouster of Saddam Hussein. "The policies of the last 15 years no longer convince voters," Amir al-Saadi, a politics professor at the University of Baghdad said. Official turnout on Saturday was 44.5 percent—the lowest in any national poll since the US-led invasion—with Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi angling for a new term after overseeing the fight against IS.

Abadi—a consensus figure who has balanced off the United States and Iran faces several major challengers from within his dominant Shiite community four years after coming to

power. Chief among them is Hadi Al-Ameri, a former commander of Iran-backed units that fought IS, who is looking to turn battlefield wins into political gains with his list of ex-combatants. An official told AFP under condition of anonymity that initial tallies had Abadi's list just ahead of that of Ameri, with an anti-establishment alliance of Shiite cleric Moqtada Sadr and communists in third.

### US-Iran tensions

The vote came with tensions surging between the US and Iran after Washington's withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear deal, sparking fears of a destabilizing power struggle over Iraq. The US—which has troops in the country from the fight with IS—lauded the poll and called for an "inclusive government, responsive to the needs of all Iraqis". But swathes of the population—especially the youth—appeared to have long given up on that dream.

"Iraqis had the sense that the game was already decided, that the elections were pre-packaged," said Karim Bitar, from the French Institute for International and Strategic Affairs. On the streets of Baghdad there was little optimism after the vote. "If the situation remains as it is, nothing will change," truck driver Jameel Al-Kabi, who did not vote said. "We will get nothing. Look in front of your eyes, there's rubbish in the streets, there's traffic, there's no work". —AFP

International

# Erdogan's 'crazy' canal alarms villagers and environmentalists

## Kanal Istanbul among Erdogan's most ambitious mega-projects

**SAZLIBOSNA:** When residents of Sazlibosna, a village near Istanbul, tried to attend a public meeting about the Turkish government's plan to dig a 400 meter-wide canal through their farmlands, they were stopped by police. The 45 km Kanal Istanbul will link the sea north and south of Istanbul and ease traffic on the Bosphorus strait, a major global shipping lane. It will also redraw the map of one of Europe's biggest cities, turning its western side into an island. Critics, including the national architects association, have questioned the need for the canal and warned it will destroy an 8,500-year-old archaeological site near Istanbul and cause widespread environmental damage.

The experience of the Sazlibosna villagers illustrates how the government has shut them out of an enterprise that could displace thousands. Estimated to cost around \$16 billion, the canal is one of the most ambitious of President Tayyip Erdogan's infrastructure mega-schemes. He has publicly referred to it as his "crazy project". When the villagers, who described themselves as Erdogan supporters, arrived for the meeting in March in western Istanbul - a session intended to allow the public to voice concerns and learn about the project - they were met by police carrying rifles and tear gas who said the hall was full.

It was - with workers who told Reuters they had been bussed in from another government mega-project. The villagers were stuck outside the hearing, in a crowd of more than a hundred people, including environmentalists, who were also not let in. "The owners of these lands need to be inside," said Oktay Teke, Sazlibosna's local administrator, as he stood with the villagers outside the Arnautkoy municipal building where the meeting was underway. "If land is going to be expropriated, it will be our land - we will lose our homes."

A Reuters reporter saw dozens of men leave the hall and board buses after the meeting. When approached, three said they were workers from Istanbul's giant new airport, which opens in October at the northern end of the planned canal. "Projects at the airport are about to be finished. This (canal) is a job opportunity for us," one said, without giving his name. The spokesman for the Arnautkoy municipality, Fatih Sanlav, said only a limited number of people were unable to enter the meeting, and no workers were bussed in to fill the hall.

### Erdogan's projects

In a decade and a half in power, Erdogan and his ruling AK Party have built roads, trains and hospitals and improved the lives of millions of lower-income, pious Turks. Under a state of emergency in effect since after a 2016 coup attempt, he has also overseen a sweeping crackdown against opponents. Erdogan says the canal will take the

pressure off the Bosphorus and prevent accidents there. He says "mega-projects", such as Istanbul's third airport, are major contributors to the economy. Yet there is concern about overdevelopment. A protest in 2013 against plans to redevelop Istanbul's Gezi park turned into a major anti-government uprising.

The Union of Chambers of Turkish Engineers and Architects (TMMOB) criticized the canal as an environmental and urban "disaster" which should be abandoned. Some 369,000 people live in the area that could be impacted by the canal, according to the Turkish Data Analysis Centre, a research company. The canal will destroy archaeological sites around the Kucukcekmece lagoon that date back to 6,500 BC and provide the earliest evidence of the Hittites in Thrace, TMMOB said. The lagoon's ecosystem, vital for marine animals and migratory birds, will also be destroyed.

The canal will demolish two basins that provide nearly a third of Istanbul's fresh water and will increase the salinity of underground water streams, affecting agricultural land as far away as the neighboring Thrace region, TMMOB said. The project will increase oxygen levels in the Black Sea, impacting the wildlife population, it said. Three groups of artificial islands will be built just offshore in the Sea of Marmara from the earth dug for the canal, which environmentalists say will cause pollution there.

The Environment Ministry did not respond to requests for comment. The Transport Ministry and Cinar Engineering, the company tasked with compiling an environmental impact report, declined to comment. While the Bosphorus is difficult to navigate, shipping companies do not need a new canal, said Cihangir Inanc of shipping agent GAC Shipping, adding it would be "more realistic" for the government to improve the strait. Nearly 43,000 ships passed through the Bosphorus in 2017, down a quarter from a decade ago, although ships today are much bigger, according to government data. Traffic on the Bosphorus was nearly three times that of the Suez Canal.

On the banks of Sazlidere dam, Sazlibosna is surrounded by rolling hills and green fields of grazing sheep and cattle. The canal will cut through that land, as well as land around nearly two dozen different villages and neighborhoods. At the local tea house, villagers fear the government will compulsorily purchase land that has been in their families for generations and pay less than the market value. Their concerns are fuelled by a similar experience 20 years ago, when the government expropriated land to build the dam, paying below market value and devastating local farms. "We had around 3,000 cattle then, we have 300 now," Teke, the administrator, said. —Reuters

## Hondurans mauled by 'The Beast' adapt to new lives

**CHOLUTECA:** They tried to get to the United States on Mexican freight trains collectively known as "The Beast" but failed, losing a limb on the way to the frenzy of wheels slicing along tracks. Now these hundreds of would-be migrants have to adapt to new lives back in their home countries after returning with less than what they started out with. Jorge, 28, was 17 when he tried to jump on a moving train in Mexico to get to the US border, just like thousands of others do clandestinely each year in the hope of escaping violence or poverty at home for a better life in the north.

Jorge didn't make it and fell on the track, where the train ran over him. He survived only because three friends and two other people there reacted quickly, tying tourniquets to stem the bleeding. He lost his right leg and a finger from his right hand. Today, 11 years later and after receiving assistance to buy a prosthetic leg, Jorge runs a grocery stand in a market in Choloteca, a town 100 kilometers south of Honduras' capital Tegucigalpa.

"He never gave up. For him, nothing is impossible," his 62-year-old father Jorge Alberto Carbajal, who works with him, said with pride. Jorge is one of several hundred Hondurans who have returned in recent years with amputations as outward signs of their fateful brush with "The Beast." A foundation backed by the Red Cross, called New Life, has stepped in to help give them prosthetic limbs. Walter Aguilar, 33, who lost his right leg in a 2001 road accident, is a specialist in polypropylene prosthetics in charge of the foundation's program handling Jorge and other patients.

### Still running

For Jorge, the assistance given has allowed him to pursue his passion for sport. "Every day I get up to run 20 minutes before opening the shop," said the student in social sciences, who also runs a fresh juice stand in a school. The loss of his of flesh-and-blood leg, though, has "slowed me down," he admitted. He also said he can



**CHOLUTECA, Honduras:** Salvadoran Walter Aguilar, 33, - who lost his leg in a car accident in 2001, makes polypropylene prostheses for patients of 'Vida Nueva' (new life) Foundation. — AFP

carry only 20 kilos (40 pounds) of produce now, down from what he hauled before.

The head of the foundation, Reina Estrada, estimates it has helped around 200 amputees since 2011, providing prosthetics that each cost between \$800 and \$1,100 — a substantial amount in a country where monthly wages are typically below \$400, and 20 percent of the population lives in poverty. The New Life foundation also gives psychological support to help the returnees cope with the emotional trauma of being forced to give up their dream of emigration.

Its psychologist, Hellen Briceno, explained that the first step was to curtail thoughts of suicide, because losing a limb often generates an extremely painful period of grief. "They have to make huge efforts because quite a few of them even dream that they still have their leg or their arm," she said. Jorge said that many Hondurans leave on the perilous voyage to the United States despite the well-known risks because they have no choice: conditions in the country for many are so poor that survival is difficult, and gangs reign with terror over swathes of the population. —AFP

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## International

## Iran 'may remain' committed to part of nuclear accord: Rouhani

## President makes overture to other signatories

**DUBAI:** Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said yesterday that, if its interests were protected, Tehran would remain committed to its 2015 nuclear deal, which his foreign minister hoped could be redesigned without Washington. Tuesday's US withdrawal from the accord was a "violation of morals", Rouhani said in remarks carried by state television. "If the remaining five countries continue to abide by the agreement, Iran will remain in the deal despite the will of America," he said during a meeting with Sri Lanka's president.

US President Donald Trump's pullout has upset Washington's European allies, cast uncertainty over global oil supplies and raised the risk of conflict in the Middle East. It has also highlighted divisions among Iran's political elite. Rouhani made similarly conciliatory comments on Tuesday, and on Saturday his foreign minister, Mohammad Javad Zarif, embarked on a tour of other signatory nations to the accord, state media reported, in a last-ditch effort to save it. After arriving in Beijing yesterday, Zarif said: "We hope that with this visit to China and other countries we will be able to construct a clear future design for the comprehensive (nuclear) agreement."

China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi said he believed Zarif's tour would "improve countries'... understanding of Iran's position," and help Tehran protect its "legitimate national interests". Rouhani has said Iran would stay committed to the deal, which Britain, China, France, Germany and Russia also signed, provided those powers could ensure Iran was protected from sanctions against key sectors of its economy such as oil. The three European states have also recommitted to the agreement, but

senior cleric Ayatollah Ahmad Khatami told worshippers at Tehran University on Friday that Europe was not to be trusted.

The head of the elite Revolutionary Guards also warned against relying on foreign powers to guarantee Iran's interests. "America's exit aims to break the Iranian people's resistance, which is not new...but today's problem is not US sanctions, it's that some officials look towards outside rather than looking at domestic potentials," Guards commander General Mohammad Ali Jafari said, the state news agency IRNA reported. On Wednesday, Jafari had cast doubt on European nations' ability to save the nuclear accord. With the deal on shaky ground in the face of fierce opposition from hardliners at home, some analysts say the pragmatic Rouhani faces the prospect of serving out his second term as a lame duck leader.



## Iran conservatives attack government over nuclear deal

## Government under fire

As Iran's foreign minister embarked on a diplomatic tour to save the nuclear deal, his government faced mounting pressure from hardliners at home who say the West should never have been trusted. Ayatollah Ali

Jannati, the ultra-conservative head of the Assembly of Experts whose responsibilities include choosing the next supreme leader, said the government had already failed to guarantee the country's interests.

President Hassan Rouhani, the key architect of the 2015 agreement, should "present his apologies to the Iranian people for the damage caused in the cadre of the nuclear deal," Jannati said. Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif arrived in Beijing yesterday for the first stop of his tour of the remaining members of the nuclear deal. He is due in Moscow and Brussels in the coming days.



**TEHRAN:** A handout picture provided by the office of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei shows him visiting the book fair in the capital Tehran. —AFP

Mirroring the line taken by supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Jannati said there was little chance the Europeans would provide the assurances needed for Iran to stay in the deal.

The Europeans "have never stopped taking actions against Iran," he wrote. The head of the Revolutionary Guards, Mohammad Ali Jafari, also criticized "certain officials" who "look to outsiders". "I hope recent events will lead us ending our trust in the West and the Europeans. The

Europeans have repeated on several occasions that they will not be able to resist US sanctions," said Jafari, according to the conservative Fars news agency. Around 100 Iranian lawmakers have also signed on to a parliament bill that would set a clear deadline for the government to "obtain necessary guarantees from the Europeans" without which Iran would resume high-level uranium enrichment, according to parliament's official website. —Agencies

## News in brief

## Egypt police acquitted

**CAIRO:** An Egyptian appeals court yesterday acquitted two police officers who were imprisoned for allegedly beating to death a detained lawyer in 2015, a judicial official said. The two officers, a lieutenant colonel and captain with the national security service, had been accused of torturing and beating Karim Hamdi to death in a Cairo police station after a pro-Islamist protest. The officers were sentenced to five years in prison in December 2015, which they appealed. Hamdi, 28, had been referred to prosecutors, but two days after his arrest he died at a police station in the working-class Cairo district of Matariya. A father of two, his death sparked outrage among his colleagues. The head of the lawyer's syndicate in northern Cairo, Mohammad Othman, said at the time that Hamdi was arrested for taking part in a protest of support of the banned Muslim Brotherhood. —AFP

## Thai 'Bun Bang Fai'

**YASOTHON:** Huge home-made rockets tore through the clouds yesterday as folk bands played for crowds at a rollicking festival in rural Thailand aimed at encouraging the beginning of the monsoon season. Known as "Bun Bang Fai", the annual rocket festival celebrated in the northeastern region of Isaan is aimed at prodding gods into unleashing rain ahead of the rice-farming season. The raucous event, which involves religious processions, mud wrestling and plenty of booze-fueled dancing to Thai country music, also has a competitive edge. Teams tour the rural region and compete to see who can send their home-made rockets highest. Yesterday around 500 people gathered in a field in Yasothon province—the festival's flagship venue—to watch crews haul massive rockets made of blue pipes and bamboo onto towering launch pads. —AFP

## Top Hariri aides out

**BEIRUT:** Three key aides of Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri were fired or resigned, his office has revealed, a week after a disastrous showing in the country's first general election in almost a decade. Hariri's Future Movement lost a third of its seats in the May 6 vote, ceding ground to its Christian former allies and parties on the other side of Lebanon's political divide, including the Shiite Hezbollah movement. The premier's chief of staff, his cousin Nader Hariri, "resigned from all his functions", according to a statement late Saturday, without specifying a reason. The movement said its coordinator, who was also in charge of the party's election campaign, had been relieved of his duties following a review. It said another unnamed cabinet official had also been dismissed. —AFP

## Malaysia 'fake news' law

**KUALA LUMPUR:** New Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad vowed yesterday to review a controversial law against "fake news" hurriedly passed before the elections and seen as aimed at critics of his scandal-tainted predecessor. The law, passed in early April, makes the deliberate spread of false information punishable by up to six years in jail and a hefty fine. It has sparked outrage from rights groups, who believe the law could be used to crack down on dissent, especially criticism of then-prime minister Najib Razak ahead of the May 9 vote. Najib's ruling Barisan Nasional coalition, which ruled Malaysia uninterrupted for 61 years since independence, was routed at the polls by a Mahathir-led opposition alliance. Mahathir, who ruled Malaysia for 22 years as prime minister before stepping down in 2003 and came back from retirement to take on Najib, said the law would be reviewed to give a clearer definition of fake news. —AFP

## Multiple blasts, gunbattle in east Afghanistan city

**JALALABAD:** Afghan security forces battled a group of attackers who stormed a government building in the eastern city of Jalalabad for hours yesterday after a coordinated assault that killed at least nine people and wounded dozens, local officials said. After a car bomb was detonated at the entrance to the state accounts office, a group of about four gunmen, armed with machine guns and rocket propelled grenades, rushed the building, the officials said. There were multiple blasts as they fought off security forces in a gunbattle that lasted much of the day.

The attack took place in a busy area of the city with many other official buildings nearby, including a school in which around 1,000 girls were trapped as the fighting raged. There was no immediate claim of responsibility. It was the latest in a series of high-profile attacks that have killed and wounded hundreds of civilians in Afghanistan this year and put heavy pressure on the Western-backed government of President Ashraf Ghani.

Most have been in the capital Kabul, but in January gunmen attacked an office of aid group Save the Children in Jalalabad, killing at least five people and wounding 25. That attack, claimed by Islamic State, followed much the same pattern as yesterday's incident. After several hours of fighting which sent plumes of smoke rising into the sky above the accounts office, Attaullah Khogyani, a spokesman for the provincial governor, said yesterday's clash had ended with all the gunmen killed.

Public health officials said at least nine people, including a child, had been killed and 36 wounded. Witnesses said the explosions had caused carnage among passers-by. "I saw two rickshaw drivers on the ground with their arms blown off," said Khan Mohammad, a local resident who saw the initial blasts and the start of the gunbattle.

## Ireland's abortion referendum campaigns ramp up

**DUBLIN:** Pro-and anti-abortion activists in Ireland are hitting the streets and social networks to mobilize a divided electorate with less than a fortnight to go until a referendum on the thorny issue. Voters decide on May 25 whether to remove the 1983 constitutional restriction on abortion—a highly sensitive issue in a traditionally devoutly Catholic country. Back in 1983, 67 percent voted in favor of the eighth amendment, which outlawed abortion. The law was tweaked in 2013 to allow terminations if the mother's life is at risk, following public outrage at the death of a pregnant woman refused an abortion.

But anyone having an abortion or helping a woman to do so still faces up to 14 years in jail. The referendum will ask voters if they want to keep the constitutional restriction or repeal it and allow the Irish parliament to legislate on abortion. It comes three years after a referendum in which Ireland voted by a landslide to legalize same-sex marriage—a seismic change. Some 45 percent are in favor of changing the abortion law while 34 percent back the status quo, with 18 percent undecided, according to the latest poll by Kantar Millward Brown for the Sunday Independent newspaper.

## Badges and sweaters

Despite their consistent poll lead, the Yes camp are taking nothing for granted. "I think that it will be very close," said Sarah Monaghan, spokeswoman for the Together for Yes campaign, the main pro-repeal umbrella group, which is urging supporters to redouble their efforts. On Saturday, thousands gathered in Dublin for the final major pro-life rally ahead of the referendum. Under the banner of "Love Both Vote No", people crowded into



**JALALABAD:** Smoke rises from a building during an ongoing attack between Afghan security force and suicide attackers at a government building in Jalalabad yesterday. —AFP

Violence has escalated across Afghanistan since the announcement of the Taliban's annual spring offensive last month and there have been heightened security fears around preparations for elections in October.

Dozens of people have been killed in voter registration centers in recent weeks, leading to fears that people could stay away from the elections, seen as a major test of the government's credibility. At the same time, Taliban fighters

have stepped up the pressure on government forces across the country, from Baghlan province in the north, where they seized a district centre last week, to Farah in the southwest or Ghazni, south of Kabul. Last year, the United States increased its support to struggling Afghan forces, announcing plans for thousands of additional advisers and more air strikes in a bid to force the Taliban to enter peace negotiations. —Reuters



**DUBLIN, Leinster:** Activists from the "Together for Yes" campaign speak to a couple on their doorstep as they canvass for a 'yes' vote in the referendum to repeal the eighth amendment of the Irish constitution, a subsection that effectively outlaws abortion in most cases. —AFP

the square outside parliament.

Demonstrators held up placards reading "Compassion for both" showing a mother and baby, "Voice for the voiceless", "My heartbeat started at 22 days" and "Repeal kills. Vote No." Meanwhile Doctors Together for Yes launched its public database of more than a thousand doctors backing repeal. Coffee shop information meetings and fundraising evenings are among the multitude of events trying to attract mostly younger people to get on the electoral register. A Together for Yes pop-up shop in central Dublin drew in lots of younger voters, who are often seen around the capital wearing "Yes" badges and t-shirts, or "Repeal" sweaters. —AFP

## Bahrain bars members of opposition groups from standing in polls

**DUBAI:** Bahrain's parliament approved a bill yesterday barring members of dissolved opposition groups from running in elections, the latest step in a crackdown against dissent ahead of parliamentary polls this year. Courts in Western-allied Bahrain, where the US Navy's Fifth Fleet is based, last year dissolved the main opposition groups Al-Wafaq and National Democratic Action Society (Waad), accusing them of helping to foster violence and terrorism.

The Shura Council, parliament's upper house, passed the draft bill that bans leaders and members of political associations dissolved by the judicial system from standing in elections "due to their serious violations of the constitution and laws of the kingdom", state news agency BNA reported. The bill, which has already been approved by the House of Representatives, the lower house of parliament, still needs to be signed by the king to become law.

Wafaq, which has strong links to the country's Shiite Muslim majority, and Waad, which is seen as a secular movement, have both campaigned for social and political reforms in the island state, which is ruled by a Sunni Muslim royal family. A former member of parliament for Al-Wafaq, Ali Alaswad, criticized the move as an attempt to further stifle any opposition in the country. "This latest move only confirms that Bahrain has no interest in welcoming opposition views into either parliament or the political process as a whole," he told Reuters by telephone from London. —Reuters



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## Analysis

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## In crumbling Basra, yearning for glorious past

When Iraqi merchant Jabar Mohamed was growing up in the southern port city of Basra, he liked to watch boats gliding along a canal lined with palm trees and ancient buildings near his home. Once dubbed the "Venice of the Middle East" for its network of canals, the 1,400-year-old city was a magnet for regional tourism until the early 1980s. Today the cherished canal of Mohamed's youth is a reeking, refuse-filled cesspool, forcing passersby to hold their noses.

It is a showcase for the widespread breakdown of public services in a country plagued by turmoil, corruption and decay since the 2003 US-led invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein. "Basra was once a wonderful place," said Mohamed, 52, who runs a grocery shop established by his father in 1966 in a street full of traditional dwellings that are falling apart. "But we've had wars and neglect," he said, pointing to the illegible scrawl on a wooden post from the 1960s - the last time Iraqi authorities put up street signs in the city of 2.5 million people, Iraq's second largest, just upstream from the Gulf.

Basrawis interviewed at random said they would not vote in Saturday's parliamentary election or, even if they do, had lost faith that officials would restore their city to its old glory. A shopping mall, some five-star hotels and elegant restaurants have sprung up in Basra since 2003 thanks to steady oil money, port facilities and an international airport. Iraq, OPEC's second-largest producer, extracts most of its oil from southern fields and exports it through terminals in and around Basra - the engine of an expanding private sector with a middle class largely in work, unlike much of the rest of Iraq.

But since 2003, state authorities have not restored a single house in Basra's historic Old City, made up of Ottoman edifices famous for wood carvings on balconies, windows and ceilings. State interest in preserving the Old City faded as Iraq went through a ruinous series of wars - with nearby Iran in 1980-88, and US-led coalition forces that ended Saddam's occupation of Kuwait in 1991 and then his rule in 2003. A UN embargo in place until 2003 helped lay waste to the oil-driven economy.

Only five historic residences were partially repaired in the 1990s and much of the remaining residential stock is at risk of collapse, according to Azhar Hashim, who runs Basra's historic heritage department. Her office has carried out studies recommending restorations of scores of Old City residence. "But nothing has happened," Hashim said with a shrug.

### Stifling mismanagement

State officials blame a public funding crisis wrought by years of low oil prices. But Basra residents blame profound neglect and corruption in public services over the past decades, worsening under the Saddam-era sanctions. "It's mismanagement, corruption and theft (of public funds)," said Walid Mustafa, a retired soldier who grew up in an Ottoman house whose roof has collapsed. Basra is one of the few cities in the Middle East without an effective water treatment system. It boasted an advanced sanitary infrastructure in the 1960s but it broke down decades ago, turning Basra's waterways into cesspools whose stench is compounded by a notoriously hot desert climate.

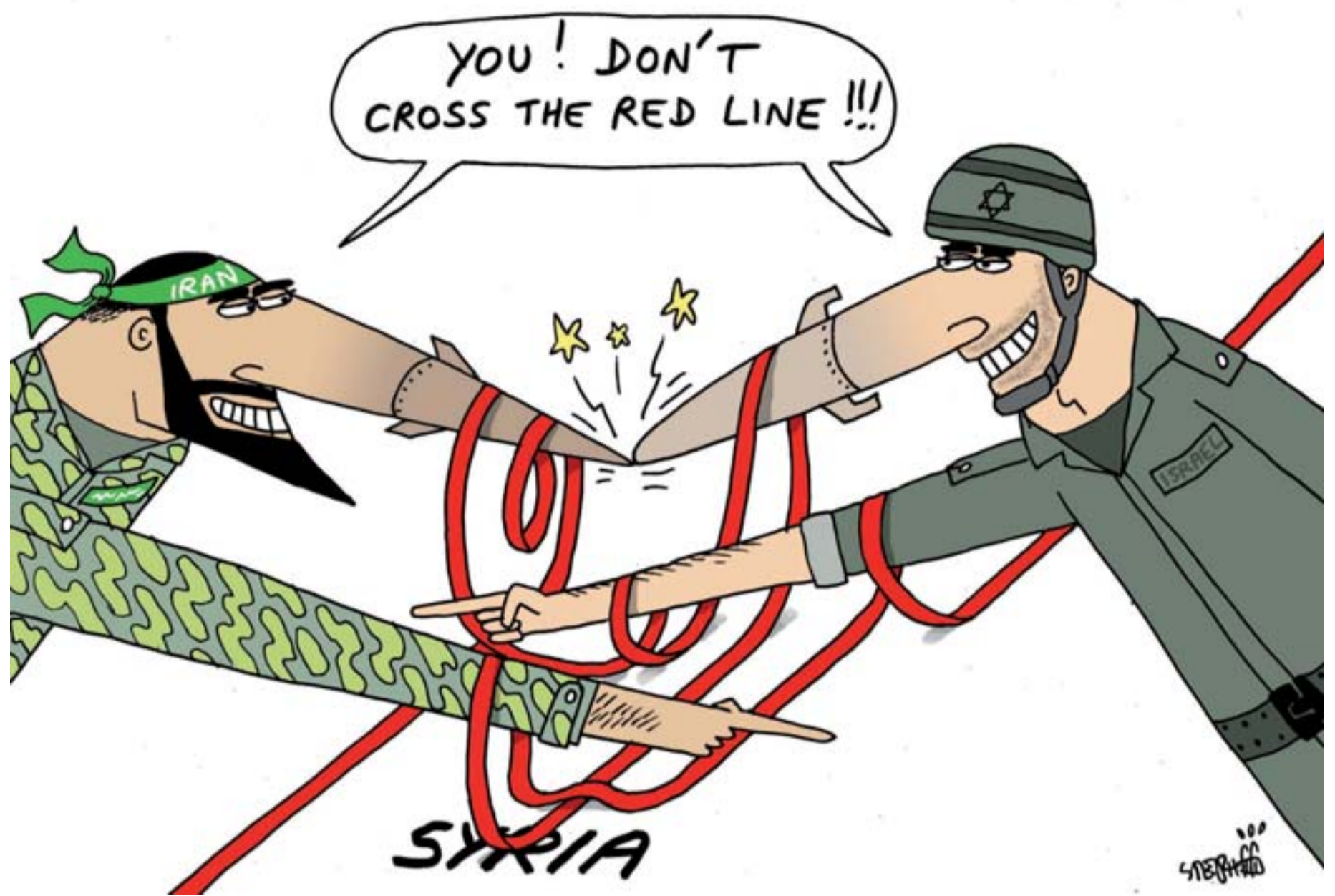
Even major roads are potholed while civic pride projects such as a "sports city" to host competitions were aborted. Ali Al-Ghaseb, chairman of the Basra Investment Commission, acknowledged mistakes after 2003 in repairing infrastructure. But he said Basra province and the central government were now working to improve the sewage system thanks to a Japanese loan while a new hospital was being built with help of Kuwait. The World Bank is also helping Iraq reduce severe air pollution arising from the gas flares of nearby oil fields.

### Culture amidst garbage

Located at Iraq's marshy southern tip where the Euphrates and Tigris rivers merge near the Gulf, Basra was for centuries a melting pot of Arabs, Persians, Turks, Indians and Greeks who all left their cultural imprint. Much of Iraq suffered destruction in the string of wars since the 1980s. But Basra was especially hard hit as a city on the front line of the war with Iran, only a few dozen km (miles) across the Shatt al-Arab delta to the east.

More devastation occurred in the course of two uprisings by southern Iraq's majority Shi'ite Muslims against the Sunni Saddam that were brutally crushed. More recently, a drought has almost dried up canals while Basra is also often engulfed in smog blamed on oil production. Tired of the state failing to restore historic buildings, local artists are trying to revive a once-vibrant cultural life. At a refurbished Ottoman palace, art exhibitions and concerts are held as painters, poets and musicians have come back after many years of keeping a low profile to avoid Saddam's agents or, after his overthrow, Islamist militants.

"We now have an event almost every day. Security has improved," said Abdelhak al-Mohtaf, head of the state cultural center in the palace. But with few inclined to make their way through broken, garbage-strewn streets to the palace, painter Sabri Al-Malek sat alone there one recent day waiting for buyers to show up. "I have sold only three of 21 paintings," he said. "We don't have any tourists anymore like in the 1970s when Basra had its heyday." —Reuters



## UAE extends military reach in Yemen, Somalia

Military transport planes from the United Arab Emirates landed on the sleepy Yemeni island of Socotra last week, unloading tanks and troops as part of the Gulf Arab state's drive to extend its influence over a strategic waterway flanked by war zones. The UAE, with a population of less than 10 million but the Arab world's second-largest economy thanks to oil, is deploying its soldiers and cash to create a web of bases and armed allies in Yemen and Somalia as a bulwark against Islamist extremists and Iranian influence, according to diplomats as well as Yemeni and Somali officials.

But backing groups at loggerheads with their national governments threatens to bog down the UAE in the seemingly endless conflicts of two of the world's poorest countries. Lying between the Arabian Peninsula and Horn of Africa, Socotra island, best known for its otherworldly plant life, appeared far from the war until the UAE troops arrived, in a landing reported by Yemeni officials and media.

The Yemeni government accused the UAE of seizing the island's ports and airport. A government source told Reuters that the UAE move was a power-play for "commercial and security interests" and accused the UAE of trying to colonize Yemen. "They won't get that from Yemen," the source said. "Yes, Yemenis are poor but they fight for their sovereignty."

The UAE foreign ministry, in a statement on Socotra, said it backed Yemen's legitimate government and sought "to establish peace and stability and to support developmental projects for the island's residents". The UAE has built up local army units in Yemen, increasing its influence along the Red Sea coast, but also opening up a rift with the country's exiled government.

Across the Bab Al-Mandeb strait, through which much of the world's oil flows, the UAE also has a foothold in northern Somalia, where Emirati firms have set up commercial ports and its troops conduct military and training missions. Abu Dhabi, political capital of the seven-empire federation, is moving assertively against the threat it sees from Islamist groups such as Al-Qaeda, while promoting itself as a stable, open and largely tolerant Muslim country.

It has allied itself with Saudi Arabia in the war against the Houthis in Yemen, and with three Arab powers in a boycott of Qatar, accusing it of backing terrorism. The UAE has hired senior foreign military officers to modernize its army, including Australia's former top special forces general, Mike Hindmarsh, who reports to Abu Dhabi's powerful Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan. Hindmarsh oversees the Presidential Guard, the unit tasked with directing the UAE's campaign in Yemen. "They are taking the fight to the enemy around the region," said a Western diplomat.

A Gulf source spelled out the UAE approach, saying it

was protecting its interests in the region and promoting development to deter recruitment by Islamist groups. "The UAE is helping to develop economically viable zones that create jobs and improve standards of living while also providing humanitarian and financial aid." "There is a comprehensive Emirati approach to fostering long-term stability in the region," the source said.

### South Yemen revived

A monument of leaning pillars in Abu Dhabi shows the cost of this engagement: inscribed with soldiers' names, the memorial pays tribute to the UAE's "martyrs". The vast majority - more than 100 - fell in the three-year-old war the UAE is fighting in Yemen alongside Saudi Arabia against the Iranian-aligned Houthis. Saudi Arabia's main ally in the conflict, Yemen's heavily Islamist government, is struggling against the Houthis, who control the north of the country



### Abu Dhabi seeks to counter Iran and Islamism, guard trade

and the capital, Sanaa.

The UAE, which has made the only visible gains by the coalition along the southwestern coast, has adopted a different strategy and cultivated its own friends in the war. Across a string of small bases from the volcanic island of Perim at the mouth of the Red Sea to the dunes of Rumah near the Omani border, the UAE pays salaries and trains troops. At the beginning of the Yemen war, the UAE prised from Iran's orbit a struggling secessionist movement which hopes to revive the former state of South Yemen.

The socialist movement's leaders left Yemen after the north and south were unified in 1994, and wound up in Hezbollah's south Beirut stronghold, from where they ran a low-level insurgency in Yemen, diplomatic and southern political sources said. Iranian Revolutionary Guard officials and Hezbollah schooled the southern commanders in guerrilla tactics in hopes of destabilizing Saudi Arabia's southern flank, the sources said.

But when the Houthis advanced into southern Yemen in

2015, promises of assistance from the UAE convinced the southern leadership to move to Abu Dhabi from where they could carry on the fight for their Yemeni homeland. "They want to fight Iranian militias trying to seize our lands, and we do too. This is enough for the alliance to make sense for now," one southern official told Reuters.

This alliance helped the UAE to seize the southern port of Aden in 2015. The UAE trained southern Yemeni forces who captured the other main port, Mukalla, from Al-Qaeda. Mukalla airport, closed to commercial flights, now hosts Emirati helicopters, a training center, detention facility and also a small contingent of US special forces helping to fight Al-Qaeda in nearby mountains. Iran's foreign ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment on any involvement with the southern Yemeni secessionists. Hezbollah also declined to comment.

### Somalia tug-of-war

Raid by Somali pirates on trade routes along the Horn of Africa helped draw the UAE, home to the Middle East's busiest port, into the tangled politics of Somalia, which has grappled for over a decade with Al-Qaeda-linked Shabaab militants. The UAE is deepening ties with the semi-autonomous regions of Somaliland and Puntland after state-owned Emirati firms DP World and P&O Ports signed deals there in 2016 and 2017.

UAE troops quickly followed, and have begun building a military base in Berbera, Somaliland, the region's President Muse Bibi Abdi told Reuters while on a visit to Abu Dhabi. "It will be the guarantee for our security, for our development in any case of terrorism ... They have the resources and knowledge better than us. We are a nation after a war, rebuilding," he said. The relationship - which includes investing hundreds of millions of dollars in Somaliland for projects such as a highway to Ethiopia and new airport - has angered the central government in Somalia, and the UAE has ended its military training mission in Mogadishu.

UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Anwar Gargash told Reuters that support for the regions was not intended to split Somalia and his country had no quarrel with the central government. "Our policy of recognizing a one-Somalia stands ... But at the same time we are able to support the people of Somaliland through humanitarian, developmental."

The president of Puntland, Abdiweli Mohamed Ali, told Reuters in Dubai that UAE personnel were training local forces to combat piracy as well as Islamist groups in Yemen or Somalia. He denied that the UAE sought a long-term colonial presence. "They are not occupying as a military force in Somalia," he said. "It's impossible. We are fierce fighters, we will never allow that to happen." —Reuters

## Italy's nascent govt has tough economic circles to square

The Italian coalition taking shape 10 weeks after March's inconclusive election has made economic promises that seem incompatible with Europe's fiscal rules and will be hard, if not impossible, to keep. These include slashing taxes for companies and individuals, boosting welfare provision, cancelling a scheduled increase in sales tax and dismantling a 2011 pension reform which sharply raised the retirement age.

The marriage being sealed between the anti-establishment 5-Star Movement and the far-right League was seen as an unlikely and worrying prospect by most analysts before the March 4 election ended in a hung parliament. The pre-election adversaries have spent the last few days trying to fuse their very different programs into a "contract" of mutually acceptable policy commitments. What they have in common is that they are extremely expensive.

On the face of it their plans, which they say may also include a form of parallel cur-

rency, could push the budget deficit far above targets agreed with the EU, setting up a clash with the European Commission and Italy's partners. "We will need to renegotiate EU agreements to stop Italy suffocating," League leader Matteo Salvini said on Saturday after a day of talks with his 5-Star counterpart Luigi Di Maio.

5-Star's flagship policy of a universal income for the poor has been costed at around €17 billion (\$20 billion) per year. The League's hallmark scheme, a flat tax rate of 15 percent for companies and individuals, is estimated to reduce tax revenues by €80 billion per year. Scrapping the unpopular pension reform would cost €15 billion, another €12.5 billion is needed to head off the planned hike in sales tax, and the parties are also considering printing a new, special-purpose currency to pay off state debts to firms. "If implemented, it would be the biggest shake-up of the Italian economic system in modern times," said Wolfgang Munchau, head of the London-based Eurointelligence think-tank.

### Compromise

Some of the parties' negotiators now suggest a more pragmatic approach will probably prevail, by implementing their pre-election proposals only partially and gradually. In the face of voter disappointment, each group will be able to say it was forced to compromise with its partner. Even so, it is still unclear how all this will square

with Italy's commitments to reduce its budget deficit and its public debt, which at more than 130 percent of gross domestic product, is the highest in the euro zone after Greece.

Growing signs of an economic slowdown will make the new government's task even harder. Industrial output stagnated in the first quarter and business confidence fell in April to a 14-month low. Before the election, 5-Star and the League both blamed the EU's fiscal rules for Italy's chronically weak growth and rising poverty, and promised to defy Brussels by spending more if they managed to enter government. They are now using less strident tones, and a 5-Star official said on Friday any plans to raise the budget deficit will first be discussed with Brussels in a "courteous" way.

The outgoing center-left administration promised the fiscal deficit would fall this year to 1.6 percent of GDP from 2.4 percent in 2017, and then decline to 0.8 percent next year with a balanced budget in 2020. 5-Star leader Di Maio said just before the election he would hold the deficit at 1.5 percent, having previously pledged to raise it above the EU's 3 percent ceiling to allow extra spending on public investments.

His latest position is still not consistent with Italy's commitment to balance its budget, and also out of line with the more confrontational stance of the League. "The goal

to balance the budget has destroyed our economy," said League senator Alberto Bagnai, a eurosceptic economist. The League wants to raise the deficit to 2.8 percent this year and to 3.0 percent in 2020. Bagnai said negotiation would be needed to find common ground on the matter with 5-Star.

### 'Weak' EU commission

Wolfgang Piccoli, co-president of Teneo Intelligence, said taking on Brussels would be popular with Italian voters, and the new government had little to fear from a European Commission which "is very weak and on its way out". The Commission, with just a year of its term remaining, "can't really do much other than put Italy's finances under greater scrutiny, and markets don't care about that", he said. So far, market reaction has been muted in response to what some analysts described before the election as the "nightmare scenario" of a 5-Star/League government.

The gap between Italian benchmark bond yields and the safer German equivalent reached its widest in seven weeks last week on news that a deal was at hand, but it had narrowed again by Friday and shows no sign of getting out of hand. Francesco Galietti, head of the Policy Sonar political risk consultancy, described the nascent coalition's economic policies as "a pretty spicy dish", but he said investors were pleased to see that Italy was managing to form a government. —Reuters

News

## New Saudi TV station part...

Continued from Page 1

of Saudis "want to live a normal life", is seen as the guiding hand behind the lifting of longstanding social restrictions. The kingdom last year announced a decades-long ban on women driving would be lifted - a decision slated to take effect on June 24.

Like Saudi Arabia's nascent entertainment industry, which aims to convince citizens to spend their riyals at home instead of in Dubai or Bahrain, SBC is positioning itself as a magnet for hundreds of millions of dollars in advertising money. "As it stands, 90 percent of these budgets are going outside Saudi Arabia, and this channel's mission is to repatriate that money, along with (skilled) young Saudis," said Shirian. SBC will become the entertainment flagship for the Saudi Broadcasting Corporation, whose portfolio also includes two channels dedicated to Quran readings and education and news-dedicated channel Al-Ekhbariya. Channel 1, which broadcasts public programming, will remain, "but is geared more for the older generation", said Shirian.

Last week, SBC said in a statement that its programming aimed to "keep pace with the spirit of development and renewal launched by the kingdom's Vision 2030... to promote the spirit of openness... and reject extremist thought". "Our goal is to have a very strong launch," said production and programming director Fahad Shaili, adding that the venture "will compete with the top channels".

SBC's launch is timed to coincide with Ramadan, a holy month for Muslims, but a

period when families tend to gather in the evenings to watch television, after breaking the fast. The channel's schedule will include mainly Saudi and other Arab series, with one featuring Egyptian star Adel Imam. Women - whose wardrobes on the sister news station Al-Ekhbariya have evolved from all black abayas to colored palettes and bold makeup - will feature prominently on screen and off, working in production alongside their male colleagues.

Buoyed by his colorful past and strong ratings, Shirian enters the playing field with a clean slate and the blessing of the authorities. "We aim to be at the front of the pack from the first day," said Shirian. "We are not afraid of the weight of competitors and we will overtake them quickly". The channel will be competing with leading Saudi private networks in the Middle East, including MBC and Rotana.

But the competition doesn't seem too fazed, for the time being. "We have always been in favor of competition," said Mazen Hayek, a spokesman for MBC. "The tougher the race, the sweeter the victory." In Dubai, SBC has launched a campaign with the slogan, "You are forced to love it", a play on words, because Saudis in the past would joke they were forced to watch limited state programs. The Rotana group replied in a Tweet "You can't force love."

MBC chief Walid Al-Ibrahim and Rotana's Prince Al-Waleed bin Talal were among the hundreds of high-profile Saudis detained over alleged corruption last year, their clout and businesses put on the line. Rumors have swirled that the media titans were pressured to hand over major stakes in those channels in order to secure their release. Those reports have never been confirmed, but Saudi Attorney General Sheikh Saud Al-Mojeb in January said \$107 billion was recovered in the wide-ranging crackdown in assets including property, securities and cash. — AFP

## Microchips get under the skin...

Continued from Page 1

When Celsing's innovatively minded media company organized an event where employees could get the implants, she followed the crowd. She said she felt nothing but a slight sting when the syringe inserted the chip into her left hand, which she now uses on an almost daily basis and does not fear hacking or possible surveillance. "I don't think our current technology is enough to get chip hacked," she says. "But I may think about this again in the future, I could always take it out then," she adds.

However, for Ben Libberton, a microbiologist working for MAX IV Laboratory in the southern city of Lund which provides X-rays for research, the danger is real. The chip implants could cause "infections or reactions of the immune system", he warned. But the biggest risk, he added, was around the data contained in the chip. "At the moment,

the data collected and shared by implants is small, but it's likely that this will increase," the researcher said. The real question, he added, is what data is collected and who shares it. "If a chip can one day detect a medical problem, who finds out and when?" he asked. Libberton worried that "the more data is stored in a single place as could happen with a chip, the more risk it could be used against us."

But Jowan Osterlund, a piercings specialist and self-proclaimed champion of chip implantation, brushes off fears of data misuse and conspiracy theories. He advocates the opposite view, arguing that if we carried all our personal data on us, we would have better control of their use. Despite unanswered questions however about how the technology will progress, the appeal of being part of a futuristic experience is a strong draw for some users. "In Sweden, people are very comfortable with technology and I would say there is less resistance to new technology here than in most other places," Libberton said.

At an "implant party" organized by Osterlund in Stockholm, 59-year-old Anders Brannfors stands out with his salt-and-pepper hair among the curious 30-something hipsters. Delighted to have become a 2.0 version of himself, he has yet however to find a use for his chip several weeks after the implant. — AFP

## Family with kids bombs Indonesia...

Continued from Page 1

"The incident angered them... and there were instructions from IS in Syria, so they waited for a moment to take revenge," he added.

The Pope offered support over "the severe attack against places of worship", while President Joko Widodo called for Indonesians to "unite against terrorism". "The state will not tolerate this act of cowardice," he told reporters in Surabaya. East Java police spokesman Frans Barung Mangera confirmed the deaths of 13 people with about 40 injured in the coordinated attacks at around 7:30 am (0030 GMT). Images showed a vehicle engulfed in flames and plumes of thick black smoke as a body

lay outside the gate of Santa Maria Catholic church, with motorcycles toppled over amid the mangled debris. In addition to the suicide blast police experts defused two unexploded bombs at the Surabaya Centre Pentecostal Church.

Nearly 90 percent of Indonesia's 260 million people are Muslim, but there are significant numbers of Christians, Hindus and Buddhists. Concerns about sectarian intolerance have been on the rise, with churches targeted in the past. Police shot and wounded an IS-inspired radical who attacked a church congregation outside Indonesia's cultural capital Yogyakarta with a sword during a Sunday mass in February. Four people were injured. — AFP

## MP claims government...

Continued from Page 1

Labor Hind Al-Sabeeh with a new grilling, saying "it will be unprecedented". Sabeeh last Thursday survived a vote of no-confidence which was taken following a grilling by MIP Saleh Ashour over alleged administrative violations and failure to resolve the imbalance in the demographic structure, which is in favor of expatriates.

If Fadhl carries out his threat, it will be Sabeeh's fifth grilling. The lawmaker said he will file the grilling if the ministry fails to take action against the Transparency Society and its violation of the law. He

claimed that the society is restricted to Muslim Brotherhood members only and its reports have been against Kuwait. The society is a non-government organization that comes under the umbrella of the social affairs and labor ministry.

Separately, the legal committee completed a report of the proposed amendment of the penal code for violations that include insulting Arab leaders. The new amendment removes the jail sentence and substitutes the penalty to a fine of between KD 3,000 and KD 6,000, but proposed a three-month imprisonment and a fine of KD 10,000 for those who repeat the crime within five years.

## IAA celebrates its 80th anniversary giving itself a new direction

**NEW YORK:** To mark the 80th anniversary, the International Advertising Association, launched a new logo along with a new proposition and rededicated itself to serve the advertising and marketing communications industry like never before. "In the rapidly changing space of marketing communications, the industry needs someone to interpret these changes and point everyone in the right direction. IAA hopes to play this role and attempt to be the 'Global Compass for Marketing Communications' in our new avatar," said Felix Tataru, IAA Chairman & World President.

To accentuate its new positioning, IAA held its inaugural Golden Compass Awards to honor legends in the marketing, advertising and media industries, that also was in celebration of the 80th Anniversary. The Honorees were Shelly Lazarus, Chairman Emeritus of Ogilvy & Mather; Paul Polman, Chief Executive Officer at Unilever; and Paul Rossi, The Economist Group.

In a nod to its newly revealed value proposition, identity and logo centered on a twenty-first century compass, the IAA Golden Compass Awards celebrated these visionary leaders for guiding their organizations through today's era of disruption and inspiring the industry at large by their achievements of global impact. Honorees received the Golden Compass Awards at a presentation ceremony at IAA's 80th anniversary reception at Intersection HQ in New York.

At the presentation ceremony, Rossi stated: "Like a compass guiding us North, East, South and West, we need to utilize the same guidelines to restore faith in brands. As a North Star, you need to truly understand your brand; as E, you need to engage, this is a time when leadership is absolutely necessary; as S, use your Swiss Army Knife, you need to have the tools and abilities to do a lot of different things; and for W, worry and worry a lot, the industry is going to change quickly so you can't be complacent."

Shelly Lazarus pointed to the remarkable progress the MARCOM industry has achieved in the last decades. She stated "Just imagine that you can actually find a prospect, ready to buy and you can engage in conversation with him or her in real time. And now today, we can do it, we can target people ONE at the time. And, with their permission, we can use all the data we have about customer habits and preferences and we can exquisitely target. We can use the data to create marketing programs that are precisely relevant to a single individual consumer, the longed for decades, audience of one".

Polman remarked that "IAA is the only industry body that represents our full industry: the advertisers, media and communications. This coupled with your extensive global reach means that you have skills and ability to impact real change". IAA further celebrated its anniversary with a Global Marketing Summit that sought to add value to its proposition. Speaking to the audience at this Summit, Antonio Lucio, Chief Marketing Officer of HP Inc., described in his opening keynote address a current renaissance of marketing - where traditional advertising matters less



INTERNATIONAL ADVERTISING ASSOCIATION

and creating impactful consumer experiences matters more. Lucio noted that during a time of high consumer mistrust, brands today must be anchored in purpose, play a meaningful role in people's lives and be built on strong emotional connections.

More than 200 international marketing, agency, media and digital executives were in attendance at IAA's annual summit held on April 27 at Time Warner Center in New York where Lucio spoke about the responsibility of great brands to step in and play a unifying role in culture and society. IAA's Global Marketing Summit also offered unparalleled thought leadership and professional development opportunities focused on: best practices in artificial intelligence and cognitive computing and how it is revolutionizing marketing; how brands can gain trust in an era of fake news and consumer mistrust; as well as, brand safety and how marketers can properly break through to earn consumers' time and attention.

These discussions were moderated and delivered to IAA Global Marketing Summit attendees by leading industry executives such as: Gabriella Schwartz, the Managing Editor at Flipboard, Richard Pattison, Senior Vice President at BBC StoryWorks, Annie Granatstein, Head of WP BrandStudio at The Washington Post, Jill Hamilton, VP of U.S. Media at American Express; Jay Sethi, VP of Smirnoff & Nurture Brands Portfolio at Diageo; Jeff Buchan, Global Industry Relations & Strategic Partnerships at Google; Stephen Tisdalle, CMO at SSGA; Chris Paul, Executive Director, Digital Marketing at Verizon; Gustavo de Mellow, Senior Vice President, Marketing Strategy at NBA and Tamina Plum, Global Head of Clients at Zenith Worldwide.

"We could not be more pleased with the solid success of our Global Marketing Summit and the events celebrating our 80th anniversary," said Felix Tataru, IAA Chairman & World President. "The remarkable attendance and engagement at the summit by professionals across multiple disciplines of the marketing, agency, media and digital industries underscores the importance of the IAA for exchanging knowledge, building relationships and generating new business." IAA's 80th anniversary celebration also included a formal dinner at The Harvard Club in New York where representatives from nearly 20 countries where IAA have strong Chapters raised a toast to the Founders of IAA, at the original place where IAA was founded in 1938.

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## Sports

# Supreme Hamilton wins Spanish GP, extends championship lead

## Lewis joins Schumacher and Mika Hakkinen as a three-time winner in Spain

BARCELONA: Lewis Hamilton extended his lead in the world championship to 17 points yesterday when he roared to an imperious victory as Mercedes scored a one-two triumph at the Spanish Grand Prix.

The defending four-time world champion dominated from start to finish, save for a spell during the mid-race pit-stops, and clocked a series of record laps as he registered his second successive win.

It was the 64th victory of his career-only Michael Schumacher on 91 has more-and came from his 74th pole. He joined seven-time champion Schumacher and two-time champion Mika Hakkinen as a three-time winner in Spain.

"That's more like it guys, great job," said Hamilton on team radio. "Today I felt that synergy with the car that I have not felt all year so now we have to do it again."

Valtteri Bottas came home second in the second Mercedes ahead of Max Verstappen of Red Bull who resisted late pressure from four-time champion Sebastian Vettel, who led Hamilton by 17 points after the opening three races this year.

The German, who made a good start, was second until he took an ill-judged second pit-stop, under Virtual Safety Car conditions, midway through the race, dropping two places. Bottas said: "Of course, I wanted to fight for the win, but this is a good result for the team." Australian Daniel Ricciardo was fifth in the second Red Bull ahead of Kevin Magnussen of Haas and Spaniards Carlos Sainz, of Renault, and two-time champion Fernando Alonso, of McLaren. Mexican Sergio Perez of Force India came home ninth ahead of the impressive Monegasque Charles Leclerc of Sauber.

Only 14 of the 20 starters completed the race. On a cooler day with intermittent sunshine and heavy clouds looming, the track temperature was 35 degrees Celsius, and the air 15, when the race began. Hamilton made a clean start from his 74th pole position, but team-mate Bottas was unable to resist Vettel who took advantage of slip-stream on the straight to steer past the Finn into the first corner. After overnight rainstorms, it was little surprise there was a Safety Car incident on the opening lap when Grosjean spun at Turn Three at high speed and then attempted to recover. His Haas spun back across the track in a cloud of black smoke ahead of the oncoming cars-leaving Pierre Gasly and Nico Hulkenberg with nowhere to go as they plunged into the spinning Haas machine.

Clearly upset and crestfallen, Grosjean kept his helmet on as he slumped on some nearby steps before going to the medical centre for a check-up. The field ran behind the Safety Car until the race re-started on lap seven, the champion bolting clear to build a lead while Bottas closed up to challenge Vettel for second.

By lap 10, a rapid Hamilton was breaking the lap record to move 3.8 seconds clear of Vettel with Bottas third and Raikkonen fourth ahead of the two Red Bulls. Hamilton maintained his stunning speed to extend his lead to 5.5 seconds by lap 13 and seven by lap 17.

Raikkonen reported loss of power shortly before Hamilton pitted from the lead, after 25 laps, rejoining second behind Verstappen, ahead of Ricciardo, Vettel and Bottas. The luckless Finn climbed from his Ferrari and out of the race.

After 40 of the 66 laps, Esteban Ocon pulled up after an engine failure, bringing Virtual Safety Car (VSC) conditions. Hamilton led Vettel by 12 seconds



MONTMELÓ: Mercedes' British driver and first place winner Lewis Hamilton (C) celebrates on the podium with Mercedes' second-placed Finnish driver Valtteri Bottas (L) and Red Bull's third-placed Dutch driver Max Verstappen after the Spanish Formula One Grand Prix at the Circuit de Catalunya in Montmelo in the outskirts of Barcelona yesterday. —AFP

and stayed out as the German pitted, comparatively slowly, for fresh medium tyres and rejoined fourth.

When racing resumed on lap 43, Hamilton led Bottas by 15 seconds. Verstappen, third, had damage to his

front-wing endplate after a collision but was told to continue despite loss of down-force and did just that as Hamilton, back to his best, controlled proceedings to the chequered flag. —AFP

## Simpson leads Players Championship by seven strokes

PONTE VEDRA BEACH: Webb Simpson put further daylight between himself and his rivals at the Players Championship on Saturday by carding a third-round 68 to open up a seven-stroke lead at TPC Sawgrass.

New Zealander Danny Lee shot 70 to move into second place on 12-under 204, with world number one Dustin Johnson (69) another two strokes behind in third. Tiger Woods and Jordan Spieth carded matching best-of-the-day 65s to jump into a tie for ninth on eight-under-par, though they still trail the leader by 11.

They will play together in a pairing that should draw bigger crowds than Simpson and Lee. Starting the day five strokes clear, Simpson increased his advantage with a solid 68, the highlight of which was holing out from a bunker for eagle at the par-five 11th.

The 2012 US Open champion's 19-under total of 197 matched the tournament 54-hole record held by Greg Norman. Simpson is also within sight of the biggest victory margin at the tournament-seven strokes by Steve Elkington

in 1997. No golfer has surrendered a lead of more than six strokes in the final round of a PGA Tour event, though Simpson will be keen to avoid the same fate at Alex Cejka here nine years ago. Cejka held a five-stroke lead after 54 holes but shot a closing 79 to plunge to equal ninth.

"I've been a pro since 2008 and you never know when a week like this will come," Simpson said, adding that he wanted to erase the mistakes from his game and post a clean round today. The 32-year-old, who has four PGA Tour victories, was as surprised as anyone with his score and said he would have been happy with Lee's 12-under total if he had been offered it before the start of the event.

"I've holed out a few times from off the green and made some long putts, and to get to (19-under), I think you've got to do that," he said. "Certain guys it's not surprising that they play well a lot, like Jason Day and Rory (McIlroy) and Spieth and these guys, but I certainly haven't had a career like theirs."

"But it doesn't surprise me at the same time because I feel like I've been confident, I've been working hard, and I'm really hungry. I'm hungry to get back in the winner's circle." The leader said he had gone unrecognized in a local coffee shop on Saturday. He planned to return, when perhaps people will take notice. Lee said he was not going to be looking at what Simpson was doing today. "I'm going to just keep my head down and play my game," he said. — Reuters

## Annahar holds second Ramadan soccer championship draw



KUWAIT: The draw of Annahar Second Ramadan Soccer Championship for newspapers, magazines, TV channels and websites was made yesterday at a press conference held at the Crowne Plaza hotel with the attendance of KJA secretary, Adnan Al-Rashed, Annahar editor in chief, Hussein Al-Fadhli, editing secretary, Nasser Al-Nasser, head of the sports section, Adnan Yousif and the head of the tourney's referees, Ahmed Al-Ali.

The championship will be held under auspices of the Information Minister and Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Mohammed Al-Jabri in the period of 2nd-9th of Ramadan. According to the draw, Al-Seyassah will meet Al-Sabah, Kuwait Times will meet Bareeq Al-

Danah, Al-Rai will play Al-Shahed, Koorra website will play KTV, Kuwaitiya will play Alaam, Adalah will play Al-Wasat, Al-Jarida will play Al-Anbaa and Annahar will play Al-Qabas.

Speaking on the occasion, Al-Rashed thanked Annahar administration, Dr. Emad Bokhamseen and all the staff for organizing the tourney noting that the idea was first suggested last year by KJA and that Annahar quickly responded despite the short notice. He added that participation was widened this year to include e-papers, KTV and A-Adalah channel.

On his part, Annahar sports section manager, Adnan Yousif thanked minister Al-Jabri,

Annahar editor in chief, Emad Bokhamseen, KJA and PAAET director, Ali Al-Mudaf for allowing the games to be played at PAAET sports complex in Shuwaikh.

Yousif also noted that the first winning team would get KD 2,000 while the second would get KD 1,600 in addition to daily prizes for the fans. He added that the teams would be divided into two groups and that the tourney would be played according to knock out games.

Finally, Yousif said that the tourney would be sponsored by Bo Khamseen Holding Group, KIB, Warba Insurance Company, Crowne Plaza Hotel, the Arabian Real Estate Company and Bo Khamseen Aviation Group.

## Zain main sponsor of Al Roudhan football tourney

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announced its main sponsorship of the 39th edition of Al Roudhan Ramadan football tournament for the third consecutive year. The event comes under the patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah.

The announcement was made during a press conference that was held at the company's main headquarters, which witnessed the presence of Zain Kuwait's Chief Corporate Communications and Relations Officer Waleed Al Khashti, Head of Al Roudhan Tournament's Organizational Committee Abdullah Al Roudhan, and Kuwait Sport Club and Kuwait's National Football team captain Hussain Hakem. During the press conference, Zain Kuwait's Chief Corporate Communications and Relations Officer Waleed Al Khashti commented: "on Ramadan of every year, the Kuwaiti audiences, especially young ones, eagerly look forward with great passion to Al Roudhan tournament, given the fact that it witnesses high levels of professionalism and excitement through both the competing local teams as well as the international football stars hosted".

Al Khashti added: "this tournament is considered the most prominent sports event not just in Kuwait but in the region during the Holy Month of every year, especially that it came under the patronage of HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah during the past six years. This indicates the great status this tournament reached within the hearts of Kuwaiti audiences and football enthusiasts".

Al Khashti continued: "Zain believes in the support of the various initiatives that contribute to the development of the Kuwaiti sports and youth sectors. We reflect this belief through our support to such distinguished sports events as well as through our support to Kuwaiti athletes in various sports who proudly represent Kuwait in local and international arenas".

Al Khashti stressed that Zain will be present at Al Roudhan tournament on a daily basis, where it will be interacting with the audiences through various competitions, activities, and entertainment programs. The company will also be distributing valuable prizes and holding daily challenges and competitions on its official social media channels.

Head of Al Roudhan tournament's organizational committee Abdullah Al-Roudhan commented: "I would like to express my gratitude to HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for his patronage to Al-Roudhan tournament and his endless support to sports and athletes. The honor of having HH the Amir's patronage puts the tournament's organizational committee in face of a huge responsibility to produce a successful and professional sporting event that lives up to this



honor". Al Roudhan continued: "Zain's journey with us started two years ago, and the company was and still is a wonderful contributor to the success of this exciting event. Zain was present daily, giving us endless support and offering our audiences valuable prizes and thrilling activities. We are proud to say that Zain is not just a sponsor, but an integral part of our organizational committee".

Al Roudhan revealed that the 39th edition of the tournament will witness the participation of three international football legends that have millions of fans around the world. This year's star guests include World Cup winners

Italian star Andrea Pirlo and Brazilian star Ricardo Kaka as well as French star Karim Benzema.

Zain's support to this unique event is in line with the company's belief in the importance of supporting the youth and sports sectors and encouraging the various sporting initiatives that cater to young people in Kuwait. The event witnesses impressive participation of football enthusiasts from across Kuwait and the GCC, and Zain will remain committed to supporting and sponsoring sports, emphasizing its dedication to the elevation of Kuwaiti youth and sports.



Al Khashti, Al Roudhan, and Hakem during the press conference.

Sports

# Neil Walker's extra-inning walk-off hit lifts Yankees to 7-6 win over Oakland A'

## Houston evened its three-game, weekend series with Texas

**NEW YORK:** Neil Walker hit a single with two outs in the bottom of the 11th inning, lifting the New York Yankees to a 7-6 victory over the Oakland Athletics on Saturday afternoon. With runners on first and second, Walker won it when he blooped a first-pitch fastball from Chris Hatcher (3-1) into center field. After Gary Sanchez scored the winning run, Walker was mobbed by his teammates at first base and the celebration continued into right field. Walker's hit occurred after A.J. Cole (1-0) fanned four in two scoreless innings after starting his outing with two walks. It also occurred after left fielder Brett Gardner and catcher Sanchez teamed up to complete an inning-ending double play in the ninth in a play the Yankees successfully challenged. Before the Yankees won for the 18th time in 21 games, Sanchez and Hicks hit back-to-back solo homers off Andrew Triggs in the second inning and Judge hit a two-run drive in the sixth off Triggs. Khris Davis hit a three-run homer (his 11th of the season) and Mark Canha added a two-run single during a five-run fourth for Oakland.

for the third time this season. He did not walk a batter and allowed just four hits over seven innings, with Rangers first baseman Ronald Guzman accounting for the lone run with a solo homer to right field in the third inning. Choo, left fielder Joey Gallo and second baseman Rougned Odor were a combined 0-for-10 with nine strikeouts against Morton, who fanned 12 batters over six innings against Texas on April 14, a game the Astros lost 6-5. Houston played without outfielder George Springer for the first time this season. Springer remains sidelined after being hit by a pitch on the left elbow in the third inning on Friday night.

### INDIANS 6, ROYALS 2

Francisco Lindor went 4-for-4 with two solo homers and two doubles as Cleveland waited out a 75-minute rain delay before beating Kansas City at Progressive Field in Cleveland. Lindor scored four runs for the Indians, while Mike Clevinger (3-0) lasted 7 2/3 innings, scattering eight hits and yielding two runs with no walks and five strikeouts. Michael Brantley also enjoyed a big day for Cleveland, going 3-for-4 with two runs and two RBIs. Jakob Junis (4-3) toiled 5 2/3 innings in a losing cause for Kansas City, ceding six hits and four runs while walking two and fanning seven. The Royals fell to 13-26 and have been outscored by a whopping 60 runs on the season.

### NATIONALS 2, DIAMONDBACKS 1

Bryce Harper had two hits and an RBI and Stephen Strasburg won his third straight start as the Nationals became the first team to win a series against Arizona this season with a victory at Chase Field. Harper doubled in a run in the third inning and walked to load the bases before the Nationals scored the final run of the game in the fourth. Washington has won 12 of its last 14. Stephen Strasburg (5-3) gave up five hits and one run in 6 2/3 innings, with nine strikeouts and one walk. A.J. Pollock had an RBI double for the Diamondbacks, their only extra-base hit. They have lost a season-high four in a row and seven out of 10.

### RED SOX 5, BLUE JAYS 2

Hanley Ramirez hit a two-run homer, David Price pitched into the sixth inning and visiting Boston defeated Toronto. Price (3-4) allowed two runs, five hits and three walks and struck out six in 5 1/3 innings for his first win since April 17, a span of three winless starts. Price had missed his scheduled start on Wednesday with a mild case of carpal tunnel syndrome. Toronto's Marco Estrada (2-3) allowed four runs, seven hits and one walk while striking out five in six innings in his fourth straight start without a win. Justin Smoak homered for the Blue Jays, who won the opener of the three-game series in 12 innings Friday.

### BRAVES 10, MARLINS 5

Freddie Freeman slugged two homers and Tyler Flowers drew the go-ahead walk in the eighth inning as Atlanta defeated Miami at Marlins Park. Freeman, who had his first career five-hit game on Thursday, finished 3-for-4 with three runs scored and three RBIs. Jose Bautista drilled his first homer as a member of the Braves, tying the score 5-5 with a solo blast in the sixth inning. He has 332 career homers, most of them with the Toronto Blue Jays. Ender Inciarte also homered for the Braves. Derek Dietrich knocked in three of Miami's five runs with a bases-loaded double in the fifth that had put the Marlins in front.

### CUBS 8, WHITE SOX 4

The Cubs and Willson Contreras had to wait an extra few hours, but they picked up where they left off on Friday, jumping on their intracity rivals early in a win over the visiting White Sox at Wrigley Field. The Cubs won their fifth straight game on the heels of a five-game losing streak. The White Sox have lost seven straight and 11 of 12 and, at 9-27, are the only major league team not to have reached 10 wins. Cubs starter Jon Lester (3-1) gave up only one run in 5 2/3 innings to earn the win. James Shields fell to 1-4, throwing six innings and allowing five runs on seven hits, with three walks and four strikeouts.

### ASTROS 6, RANGERS 1

Charlie Morton recorded a career-high 14 strikeouts while Brian McCann, Evan Gattis and Carlos Correa slugged home runs in support as Houston evened its three-game, weekend series with Texas at Minute Maid Park. Morton (5-0) posted double-digits in strikeouts



**NEW YORK:** Neil Walker #14 of the New York Yankees celebrates his eleventh inning game winning base hit against the Oakland Athletics with first base coach Reggie Willits #50 at Yankee Stadium on Saturday in the Bronx borough of New York City. — AFP

### TIGERS 4, MARINERS 3 (GAME 1)

Grayson Greiner knocked in the first two runs of his career, Jose Iglesias hit a two-run homer and Detroit held off Seattle in the first game of a doubleheader. Greiner, a rookie catcher, had two run-scoring hits while Iglesias ripped his second homer this season. JaCoby Jones added two hits and a run scored. Detroit's Matthew Boyd (2-3) allowed three runs on three hits with six strikeouts in six-plus innings to collect the win. Seattle starter Marco Gonzales (3-3) allowed four runs on 10 hits in six innings.

### MARINERS 9, TIGERS 5 (GAME 2)

Robinson Cano hit a three-run homer, Ryon Healy drove in three runs and Seattle salvaged a split of a doubleheader in beating Detroit. Cano hit his fourth homer and also scored two runs, while Healy blasted his seventh homer and added an RBI double for the Mariners. Kyle Seager had three hits, scored two runs and knocked in two more, while Nelson Cruz supplied three hits, a run scored and an RBI. John Hicks led the Detroit attack with three hits, including a two-run homer. Pete Kozma had two hits, a run scored and two RBIs, while JaCoby Jones scored two runs, including a first-to-home scamper on a single.

### ORIOLES 6, RAYS 3 (GAME 1)

Jonathan Schoop homered twice to help starter

David Hess win in his major league debut as Baltimore won its fourth straight and defeated Tampa Bay in the first game of a doubleheader at Oriole Park. Hess was the 26th man on the Orioles' roster (which is allowed for doubleheaders), and after starting poorly, rebounded strongly. The right-hander gave up three runs on four hits in the first inning and then retired 18 of the final 20 batters he faced. Overall, Hess (1-0) allowed three runs on six hits in six innings. He struck out three without a walk and threw just 78 pitches. Tampa Bay has dropped five in a row. Rays starter Chris Archer (2-3) gave up all six runs Baltimore scored in seven innings. He allowed seven hits and couldn't hold the early 3-0 lead.

### RAYS 10, ORIOLES 3 (GAME 2)

C.J. Cron and Brad Miller both homered, and Tampa Bay defeated Baltimore to earn a split of the doubleheader at Camden Yards. The Rays' victory also snapped their five-game losing skid while Baltimore had won four in a row. There was a 1-hour, 19-minute rain delay in the sixth inning.

The Rays pitched by committee in this game as seven pitchers combined to allow just three runs and four hits, with Sergio Romo (1-0) earning the win by throwing 1 1/3 shutout innings. Baltimore starter Alex Cobb (0-5) lost for the second time this season to his former team. He allowed four runs (three earned) on seven hits in 5 2/3 innings. — Reuters

## With win over Knights, Jets no longer the 'gum on Canada's shoe'

**WINNIPEG:** The Winnipeg Jets and their fans proved on Saturday that when it comes to ice hockey and throwing a party they are up there with the best as they beat the Las Vegas Golden Knights 4-2 in Game One of the NHL's West Conference Finals. Never before had Winnipeg thrown such a bash and with good reason.

This is uncharted air space for the Jets and tens of thousands of their fans were drawn to the downtown core of the city to be a part of the achievement. A well-deserved victory over the expansion Golden Knights also gave Winnipeggers a prime time stage to hit back at all the punchlines and jabs they have absorbed over the decades.

"Winter-Peg", "Windy-Peg", weary Winnipeggers have heard them all but on Saturday the Jets and their supporters reminded an ice hockey mad country that "The Peg" is Canada's last hope this season to end a 25-year Stanley Cup drought. "We've been the gum on Canada's shoe for a long time, everyone looks down on Winnipeg," said fan Adam Williscroft, decked out in his Jets jersey with the accessory of the day - a can of beer in hand. "But not now, not today. Today we are in the limelight." The National Hockey League's smallest market Winnipeg sits at what is recognized as the crossroads of Canada, "Portage and Main", which is often referred to as the nation's coldest and windiest corner. This advertisement does not scream party destination but it does say welcome to ice hockey country.

### 'BEST FANS'

Saturday was a huge celebration, but the champagne is still on ice. A Stanley Cup party will require three more Jets victories to lock up the best-of-seven series. "Best fans in the league by far," praised Jets forward Mark Scheifele, who had a goal and set up another. "We feed off them."

"They are a big part of why we are here. We live it. Hopefully we can give them a lot more to cheer about." The buzz began early as a trickle of fans ambled towards party central-the Bell MTS Place.

By mid-afternoon, the trickle had turned into a flood as white clad fans packed the core for what has become known as "The WhiteOut". With each Jets victory officials have had to add blocks and blocks to the fan zone around the arena to accom-



**WINNIPEG:** Reilly Smith #19 of the Vegas Golden Knights skates past Nikolaj Ehlers #27 of the Winnipeg Jets during the third period in Game One of the Western Conference Finals during the 2018 NHL Stanley Cup Playoffs at Bell MTS Place on Saturday in Winnipeg, Canada. The Winnipeg Jets defeated the Vegas Golden Knights 4-2. — AFP

modate revelers.

Fearing the street party had reached a critical point the city made Saturday's event an invitation only affair for 25,000 who would need a ticket to enter the fun zone. Those free tickets were scooped up in a matter of minutes and were soon appearing online with sellers asking \$25 or more. Just 65 seconds after the puck dropped the party kicked into overdrive when Dustin Byfuglien took a drop pass from Scheifele and rifled it past Las Vegas netminder Marc-Andre Fleury.

Patrik Laine and Joel Armia added quick fire goals 46 second apart to put Winnipeg up 3-0 before the midway mark of the first period. The Golden Knights pulled one back before the end of the period on a goal from Brayden McNabb that trimmed the deficit to two but they would get no closer.

The teams traded goals in a more even second period Scheifele, counting for the Jets and William Karlsson for Las Vegas, before Winnipeg netminder Connor Hellebuyck shut door in a scoreless third. — Reuters

## Ireland follow on after 130 all out against Pakistan

**DUBLIN:** Ireland were dismissed for 130 in their inaugural Test innings and made to follow on by Pakistan on the third day at Malahide yesterday.

Ireland finished 31 runs shy of the follow-on avoidance target of 161 after Pakistan had made 310 for nine declared in a match where Friday's scheduled first day was washed out completely.

It was the first time Pakistan had enforced the follow-on in a Test in 16 years—they made New Zealand bat twice in a row on the way to an innings and 324-run win at Lahore in 2002. Mohammad Abbas did the initial damage with the ball as Ireland collapsed to five for three before lunch, with the paceman finishing with figures of four wickets for 44 in 11 overs, while leg-spinner Shadab Khan took three for 31 in 13.2 overs.

Kevin O'Brien top scored for Ireland with 40 and Gary Wilson, batting with an injured arm, made a gutsy 33 not out. — AFP

## Nepal teen Lamichhane shines on IPL debut

**NEW DELHI:** Teenage cricket sensation Sandeep Lamichhane said there was more talent waiting to be discovered in Nepal after an impressive Indian Premier League debut. Lamichhane, aged 17 and the first Nepalese player to land an IPL contract, took one wicket for 25 from his four overs opening the attack with his leg-spin for Delhi Daredevils against Royal Challengers Bangalore.

Lamichhane said after Saturday's match that his journey had just begun. "I think these kind of leagues can help you grow your game. You have to stay busy with cricket all the time," Lamichhane told reporters. "Just as I have got chance in IPL there are many a talent in Nepal. I am playing for Nevis Patriots (in the Caribbean Premier League) this year. The journey has started and there are lots of opportunities for players in Nepal," he said.

Lamichhane made history in the January auction for the cash-rich Twenty20 league when he was brought by Daredevils for \$318,000, but has remained benched since the IPL began on April 7. It was a proud moment for Lamichhane when Daredevils coach and former Australia captain Ricky Ponting handed him his cap and he did not disappoint.

"The most important thing is how you are learning all the time. It's been good, this one-and-a-half months," Lamichhane said. "I learnt a lot of things. We have got an exceptional coach (Ricky Ponting) and good captain and all the players are really good."

His effort failed to lift Delhi to a win at their home Feroz Shah Kotla Stadium and their ninth loss in 12 matches meant they were eliminated from the play-off race, bottom of the eight-team table.

The Nepalese teenager trained at Michael Clarke's cricket academy in Sydney after he was spotted by the former Australia captain at the Hong Kong T20 Blitz in 2016. Lamichhane, who trapped Bangalore opener Parthiv Patel leg before for his first IPL wicket, said Clarke was closely following his cricketing career. "We were so close during the IPL season. We spoke to each other and he was saying that you have done so well today," he said on Saturday. "Still I am a bit upset because the most important thing is a team win and if your team is not winning you must be upset." — AFP

## Sports

# The workshop that makes eliminated Italy home of the World Cup

## Italians will still make the cup shine

**PADERNO DUGNANO:** When the World Cup is held aloft in July, it won't be an Italian lifting the trophy. The eliminated Azzurri will not brighten the tournament, but Italians will still make the cup shine.

The four-time winners' humiliating exit in November's playoff defeat to Sweden cast a pall over one of the world's proudest football nations. Italy are not going to the World Cup, but the World Cup will come to Italy.

Every four years, in an anonymous building in an industrial town near Milan, amid the clouds of metal dust and sound of presses and hammers, an Italian company gets its hands on the World Cup trophy itself—and gives it a makeover.

GDE Bertoni, a small business with 12 employees based in the Milanese suburb of Paderno Dugnano, designed and created the current cup in 1971 after Brazil kept the Jules Rimet trophy after they won the World Cup for the third time, and every four years it returned home for a spruce up.

"It's always a special feeling when the original trophy comes back to us, even if we see the replica every day," says Valentina Losa, director of the company her great-grandfather founded in 1938. The trophy was made by the company's then-artistic director, sculptor Silvio Gazzaniga, helped by Valentina's father Giorgio, who suggested the globe at the top of the trophy. "The original is the original. It's like the difference between seeing the original Mona Lisa or a copy. It's not the same feeling at all."

### "AMAZING FEELING"

Standing in front of an autographed photo of Franz Beckenbauer, who in 1974 became the first captain to

lift the new trophy, Losa recounts how her company bagged the contract. "There were 53 proposals from all over the world, but we were the only ones to have made a model, a physical product," she says. "Having it in front of you, not just a drawing—that plays."

Soon after every World Cup, FIFA sends the trophy, which is 38 centimetres long and contains more than six kilos of solid gold and malachite, home to be tended to. "For four years it travels, and is exposed to the elements. It's a little damaged, but we put it back into shape," says Pietro Brambilla, one of the Bertoni workshop's eight specialist workers. Brambilla has no interest in football but something changes when he sees the World Cup winning captain lift the trophy. "I always shed a tear at that moment because that trophy passed through my hands. It's an amazing feeling," he says. "Not many people can say that they've held the World Cup."

### COVETED

As well as making the original, Bertoni is also responsible for making a replica which the eventual winners of each tournament get to keep. The replica is made from brass, after which it undergoes a range of treatments including milling and polishing before being bathed in 24-carat gold.

"We do this by eye. Once we see that she is beautiful, it comes out," says Ahmed Ait Siti Abdelkader, depositing a varnish that will keep the trophy shiny for about a decade. "The World Cup is something different," he adds. "We make a lot of cups here, for Africa, the Gulf, Europe, Central America ... but this one has an extraordinary effect on you, different from all the others." On July 15 Neymar, Lionel Messi, Hugo Lloris,



**PADERNO DUGNANO:** File photo shows artisans working on a replica of the FIFA football World Cup Trophy at the Italian trophy and medal manufacturer GDE Bertoni.

Sergio Ramos or Manuel Neuer could be lifting the trophy rather than Italy captain Gianluigi Buffon, whose post-elimination tears captured a nation's heart in November. But a few months later it will come home again to an industrial corner of Italy for its regular once

over. "It's such a coveted trophy that when a team wins it, the players mess around with it and take advantage of it—a bit too much," says Losa. "Sometimes it comes back with a bit of work to do. Let's just say that in 2006 the Italians really partied." —AFP

## Crotone stall Lazio's Champions League ambitions

**ROME:** Lazio were held to a 2-2 draw by lowly Crotone on Sunday and now host Inter Milan next week in a decisive final day battle for Champions League football. In the match of the day, Juventus are at Roma later in a clash which could see the Turin giants be crowned Serie A champions for a seventh consecutive season.

Juventus need just a point to seal the Scudetto even if second-placed Napoli lose at Sampdoria. Roma, in third, are assured of their Champions League berth next season after Inter Milan lost 2-1 to Sassuolo at the San Siro on Saturday. There was a lot at stake for both Lazio-bidding to seal elite European action—and Crotone who desperately needed a result to move away from the relegation zone. Lazio have been hit by the injury of top Serie A scorer Ciro Immobile, but the Romans nevertheless took the lead when Senad Lulic converted a penalty on 17 minutes after he was fouled in the box by Mario Sampirisi. Nigerian forward Simy grabbed the equaliser after half an hour for the southerners with Federico Ceccherini adding a second after the break. Sergej Milinkovic-Savic grabbed a point for Lazio six minutes from the whistle to leave their fortunes down to next week's showdown in the Stadio Olimpico.

Lazio are three points ahead of fifth-placed Inter and will go through with a draw. A win would give Inter the berth and send Lazio into the Europa League. "It's a big missed opportunity," said Lulic. "Now it's all the play for on the last day against Inter."

"We can make it, but it's a pity that we let in two goals today. We know what we have to do. "Now we need to see whether any injured players come back. We deserve the Champions League, it would be a shame to throw it all away now." —AFP

## Yates wins stage nine at Giro

**GRAN SASSO D'ITALIA:** Simon Yates won an uphill mountain finish to claim the ninth stage of the Giro d'Italia yesterday to extend his overall race lead as fellow Briton Chris Froome struggled. Mitchelton rider Yates, wearing the leader's pink jersey, crossed just ahead of France's Thibaut Pinot and Colombian Esteban Chaves at 2,135 metres altitude.

The race included a gruelling 26.5km final climb to the snowcapped Campo Imperatore, where Benito Mussolini was imprisoned in 1943. "I realise how big it is to win my first stage with the pink jersey," said Yates, who became the first Briton since Mark Cavendish in 2013 to win a stage and only the second after Robert Millar in 1987 on the top of a mountain. "That one is for the boys who rode at the front all day," added Yates. "It's really nice. Since the beginning of the day we believed in the possibility of winning the stage as well as defending the pink jersey."

Four-time Tour de France winner Froome was the big loser of the day along with Italian champion Fabio Aru, as the pair fell behind with two kilometres to go. Froome lost over a minute on his rivals, as Yates rode to his first stage win on the Giro, three days after letting teammate Chaves take victory on Mount Etna. Team Sky rider Froome finished 23rd on the day, 67sec behind the leading trio, and is trailing Yates by 2min 27sec in the overall standings. —AFP

## Mancini quits Zenit, eyes Italian job

**SAINT PETERSBURG:** Roberto Mancini quit as Zenit Saint Petersburg coach yesterday, saying he now felt free to open talks with Italy over the vacant national team job. Mancini was said to have reached agreement to become the next Italy coach last Tuesday, Gazzetta dello Sport reported, but he denied that on Sunday.

Earlier in the day the club confirmed Mancini would be leaving the Russian Premier League club. "Zenit and Roberto Mancini have reached an agreement over early termination of his contract," Zenit said in a statement. "The contract was cancelled by mutual consent of the parties without any indemnity payments."

Mancini however insisted that no arrangements concerning a possibility of his work with the Italian national side had been achieved yet. "It would have been totally wrong to hold talks before my contract (with Zenit) had been cancelled," he told the news conference Sunday after his last match as Zenit manager.

"I cannot confirm yet that I will be Italy's next national head coach. But I will be able to hold talks about it with the Italian (football) federation pretty soon," Mancini added that he decided to part his ways with Zenit around three months ago.

## Larger than life Burgos will be Simeone's sideline spirit

**MADRID:** Atletico Madrid assistant coach German 'Mono' Burgos has fought off cancer, sung in a heavy metal band and was once suspended for 11 games for knocking an opponent unconscious and he will take centre stage again in Wednesday's Europa League final.

With his colleague Diego Simeone serving a touchline ban, the former goalkeeper once nicknamed 'the gorilla' and now known as 'the monkey' will lead Atletico out in Lyon against Olympique de Marseille in pursuit of a first trophy since 2014.

Simeone appointed his old Atletico team mate as assistant at Argentine club Racing Club de Avellaneda in 2011 and brought him back to Madrid a few months later, tasked with returning the declining Spanish giants back to glory. Within five months, the Argentine duo had won the Europa League and the King's Cup and an unlikely Liga title soon followed. They have also reached the Champions League final in 2014 and 2016, losing both times to city rivals Real Madrid.

Burgos has compared his working relationship with Simeone to that of movie actors Robert de Niro and Joe Pesci, and rather like the gangster characters they portrayed, both coaches have a habit of losing their heads. The Argentine famously punched Espanyol's Manolo Serrano during a game for Real Mallorca in 1999, while as Atletico assistant he confronted then Real coach Jose Mourinho during a tense Madrid derby, shouting at the Portuguese: "I'm not Tito Vilanova, I'll rip your head off!"

In another derby, Burgos had to be restrained by Simeone and then Real coach Carlo Ancelotti as he charged towards a referee. Simeone is also no stranger to losing his temper and is serving a four-game touchline ban for insulting an official and improper conduct during Atletico's Europa League semi-final first leg at Arsenal.

"It was my personal initiative to leave Zenit, which is related to my family circumstances," he said. "I made this decision around three months ago. And it wasn't connected to any other club or the national team."

"I don't have a feeling that I've made mistakes or my decisions (as Zenit manager) were wrong," Mancini said. "If I was able to rewind time back I would have done everything the same way."

Mancini, 53, who signed a three-year deal with Zenit last summer with an option of a two-year extension, led Zenit to a fifth-place finish in the Russian league, seven points behind the newly-crowned champions Lokomotiv Moscow.

Italian Federation (FIGC) commissioner Roberto Fabbricini said last week that Mancini, a former Man City and Inter Milan coach, had agreed in principle to become the next manager of four-time world champions Italy, who failed to qualify for the World Cup after defeat to Sweden in a two-leg playoff.

Earlier Mancini has said he would be proud to coach Italy, telling Italian radio: "If one day I got the chance to sit on the national team bench it would be something beautiful." During his 17-year coaching career Mancini led City to their first English league title in 44 years in 2012, and won three Serie A titles with Inter Milan.

He also won Italian Cups with Inter, Fiorentina and Lazio. Italy have been without a permanent coach since Gian Piero Ventura was sacked after they failed to qualify for the World Cup for the first time in 60 years after losing to Sweden in November. —AFP



Roberto Mancini



**MADRID:** File photo shows Atletico Madrid's Argentinian coach Diego Simeone and Atletico Madrid's Argentinian assistant coach German Burgos (L). —AFP

### LOYAL SERVANT

Rather like Simeone, Burgos seems to relish the tension of big games, once remarking that what he missed most about being a player was being insulted by opposition fans. But there is more to the assistant than angry outbursts and punch ups. Inspired by his love for The Rolling Stones, he founded a hard rock band in Argentina called The Garb, recording several albums as lead singer.

In an interview with newspaper El Mundo last year, Burgos recounted his recovery from kidney cancer in 2003 and said people who have been diagnosed with the disease frequently come to him for advice. He continues to smoke, however. Simeone has always spoken highly of his assistant. "The best thing about our relationship is loyalty, something rare in football, and when you add to that his ability, it explains why things have gone so well for us," he said after Atletico beat Arsenal 1-0 to reach the Europa League final. —Reuters

## Pakistan hockey hero dies at 50 from heart failure

**KARACHI:** Pakistan's World Cup-winning hockey hero Mansoor Ahmed died Saturday of heart failure aged 50 after battling the disease for years, his family said.

The goalkeeper had last month publicly appealed to New Delhi for a medical visa to allow him a heart transplant, but ultimately did not apply as he was too sick to travel, they said.

"Indian hospital Fortis had offered Mansoor free transplant but doctors in Karachi warned he would not be able to travel due to his deteriorating condition," Haider Hussain, a family friend told AFP.

Ahmed had been suffering for weeks from complications stemming from a pacemaker and stents implanted in his heart.

Ahmed was famous for playing a key role in Pakistan's World Cup win in Sydney, Australia in 1994, with his penalty stroke push against the Netherlands — the country's third and last world title. He played 238 internationals for Pakistan in a career which started in 1988 and finished in 1997.

During his career he won gold medals in the Asian Games, World Cup and Champions trophy.

Last month, he made headlines reaching out to his former sporting rivals India for help seeking his heart transplant.

"I may have broken a lot of Indian hearts on the field of play by beating India in the Indira Gandhi Cup (1989) and in other events but that was sport," Ahmed had told AFP. "Now I need a heart transplant in India and for that I need support from the Indian government." —AFP

Sports

# Man United beat Watford 1-0 on Carrick's final league game

## United finish second behind champions Manchester City

**MANCHESTER:** Manchester United treated their stalwart Michael Carrick to a memorable farewell yesterday after a first-half goal by Marcus Rashford gave them a 1-0 home win over Watford on the final day of the season.

Carrick, who is unlikely to be picked for Saturday's FA Cup final against Chelsea on Saturday and will assume a coaching role at United next season, was treated to a guard of honour by both teams before kickoff.

The 36-year-old midfielder also received a standing ovation from the fans when he was substituted in the 85th minute by Paul Pogba, drawing the curtain on a trophy-laden career at United since he joined them from Tottenham Hotspur in 2006.

Once described by former United captain Nemanja Vidic as "the glue that holds it all together," Carrick said he was looking forward to a new role in the dugout next to the club's manager Jose Mourinho.

"It's not a sad goodbye by any means, I've got a lot to look forward to," said Carrick. "I'm looking to create more memories on the other side of the fence with Jose and his staff and bring success back to this club."

"The reception was incredible. I've had ups and downs at the club over the years. It's the greatest club

in the world so it's been beyond my wildest dreams as a young kid." Carrick has won five Premier League titles with United, the 2008 Champions League and the 2017 Europa League.

United's second-place finish in the Premier League is their best since they won their 20th title under Alex Ferguson in 2013. Although both teams seemed to go through the motions on a sunny day at Old Trafford, a moment of magic from Carrick settled the contest when he rolled back the years to delight the home crowd.

### Carrick receives standing ovation

fizzing out after the break. Carrick added it was an emotional farewell as he captained United one last time, having walked on to the pitch with his children. "It's an emotional day," he said. "This morning it hit me a little bit. I was fine once I got here but in the hotel before I left, it was mixed emotions. "It was nice to play and win, the reception was very special. Being out there with the kids is something that you always cherish." — Reuters



**MANCHESTER:** Manchester United's English midfielder Michael Carrick (21) takes a shot but doesn't score during the English Premier League football match between Manchester United and Watford at Old Trafford in Manchester, north west England, yesterday. —AFP

## Wenger bows out with Arsenal win at Huddersfield

**HUDDERSFIELD:** Arsene Wenger enjoyed a rare away victory as Arsenal's fans and players saluted the end of his managerial reign with a 1-0 win at Huddersfield Town in the Premier League yesterday.

Frenchman Wenger, who is leaving the club after almost 22 years in charge, was given a guard of honour by both sets of players before the kickoff and then walked to the visiting Arsenal supporters to acknowledge them. The decisive goal came when Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang slid in at the back post to convert a low cross from Aaron Ramsey in the 38th minute. Arsenal ended the season in sixth place, their lowest finish during Wenger's time at the club, but at least they managed their first away win of 2018.

"We wanted that away win. We hadn't managed to do that yet so it was important to end Arsene's final game with a win," said Ramsey.

"He told us to go out, play how we wanted and win. It is going to be strange without him next season but he has been brilliant and we will forever be thankful," he added. With Huddersfield celebrating survival at the end of their first Premier League campaign, acknowledgment of Wenger's final - and 1,235th - game in charge took place before the kickoff.

Once the action was under way, a plane flew over the ground carrying the banner "Merci Arsene - we'll miss you". In the 22nd minute, the entire ground stood to applaud Wenger, whose achievements - including three Premier League titles, seven FA Cups and a 49 game unbeaten run - were celebrated in song by the travelling North London supporters.

"Of course it is very emotional after 1,235 games for the same club. To enjoy it we had to win it, winning



**HUDDERSFIELD:** Arsenal's French manager Arsene Wenger walks onto the pitch before the English Premier League football match between Huddersfield Town and Arsenal at the John Smith's stadium in Huddersfield, northern England yesterday. —AFP

football games is what makes me happy and the boys did it. It was a good day for everyone with Huddersfield staying up too," said Wenger.

He added that there was no sense of relief that his farewell period had come to a close. "Not really, I'm sad," he said. "At some stage it has to end, I wish every-

one well, the fans have been great until the end and I wish the club well for the future.

"It will be hard to adjust of course but I will have to deal with that. I want to wish this group of players well and the staff coming in, I will remain an Arsenal fan above everything else." — Reuters

## Kane hits winner as Spurs win nine-goal thriller

**TOTTENHAM:** An end-of-season classic saw Tottenham say farewell to their temporary Wembley home by coming back from 3-1 down to beat Leicester City 5-4 and secure third place in the Premier League.

Appropriately, it was Harry Kane who delivered the final goal of Tottenham's campaign, curling in his 30th of the league season to complete a dizzying afternoon of attacking football. Kane, who ended the season two goals behind Liverpool's Mohamed Salah as he just failed to claim a third successive Premier League Golden Boot, was also on target in the first half in which Jamie Vardy and Riyad Mahrez put Leicester 2-1 ahead.

Kelechi Iheanacho's stunning shot put Leicester two clear just after halftime but it provoked a furious Spurs response in which Erik Lamela struck twice either side of an own goal by Christian Fuchs, who deflected Lamela's shot in off his knee.

Vardy, who will almost certainly be on the plane with Kane as part of England's World Cup squad in Russia this summer, slammed in an equaliser for Leicester after a deft pass by Mahrez. A draw would have dropped Tottenham below Liverpool into fourth spot but Kane enjoyed the last laugh in the battle of the England strikers when he cut in from the left to curl a trademark effort past Leicester keeper Eldin Jakupovic.

Tottenham, who have finished the season as London's top team for the first time in 23 years, will begin life in their new 62,000-seater stadium as a Champions League club again. Getting there for the third season in a row is a commendable feat by manager Mauricio Pochettino but he still awaits his first silverware.

The temporary move to the imposing national stadium was widely-expected to hamper Tottenham's top-four ambitions at the start of the season but 14 wins, four draws and only two defeats there have underpinned their season. As farewells go, yesterday's clash was a humdinger. "It was incredible—one of those games at the end of the season where both teams want to attack," Kane said.

"It has been a good season with everything that has gone on with Wembley. The main aim was to qualify for the Champions League for next season."

With Kane scoring 30 league goals—surpassing the 29 he got last season—and Salah bagging 32 for Liverpool it is the first Premier League season in which two players reached the 30-mark since Andy Cole and Alan Shearer in 1993-94.

While Kane showed a return to his razor-sharp best, Mahrez and Vardy revived memories of Leicester's unlikely march to the title in 2016, although whether or not they will be linking up in blue shirts next season remains a doubt. Manager Claude Puel's future is also uncertain despite a solid ninth-placed finish.

"We should have won this game. It is crazy to lose this game when we scored four goals away," he said. "I make no comments about speculation around me. I try to keep my concentration on the team." — Reuters

## Swansea relegated after seven seasons

**SWANSEA CITY:** Swansea City were relegated from the Premier League after seven seasons, losing the final game 2-1 against Stoke City, who were already condemned to the Championship. The Welsh club needed a 10-goal turnaround to send Southampton down instead, which, unsurprisingly, was never a serious possibility.

They did take the lead through midfielder Andy King, leading to optimistic chants of "we want 10" from home supporters. But by halftime Swansea, without an away win in 13 previous away games, led with goals by Senegal's Badou Ndiaye and then Peter Crouch. Xherdan Shaqiri even missed a penalty for Stoke.

Swansea's Portuguese manager Carlos Carvalhal is widely expected to leave, five months after arriving. "I talked with the owners yesterday, we will talk again today," he said. "I will think about Swansea and myself. I must talk with my family. After that I will make the right decision about my future."

"I know the Championship and reached the play-offs twice. It's not common for a team to reach the play-offs two years in a row." Stoke manager Paul Lambert also said his time in charge was not enough to turn things round after being appointed in January.

"There were things wrong, without a doubt," he told the BBC. "We drew games that we should have won. A little bit more quality across the top (positions) and we wouldn't be in this position. "There's a core of players, but there's a turnaround that needs to happen." —Reuters



**SWANSEA:** Swansea's Ghanaian striker Andre Ayew has a shot blocked by Stoke City's English goalkeeper Jack Butland during the English Premier League football match between Swansea City and Stoke City at The Liberty Stadium in Swansea, yesterday. —AFP

## Palace win over West Bromwich

**LONDON:** Crystal Palace ended their season on a high with a 2-0 home victory over already-relegated West Bromwich Albion yesterday, which left the visitors bottom of the Premier League.

Wilfried Zaha met Patrick van Aanholt's cross on the volley from close range to break the deadlock in the 70th minute after a bursting run through the middle from Ruben Loftus-Cheek.

Dutch left back Van Aanholt then completed a mar-

vellous team move by rounding goalkeeper Ben Foster to score the second eight minutes later, inflicting a first defeat on West Brom in six games since caretaker manager Darren Moore took over at the start of April.

Palace finished the season 11th in the standings on 44 points, missing out on 10th by two goals as Newcastle United beat Chelsea 3-0. West Brom sank to the bottom of the table due to Stoke City's 2-1 win at Swansea City, ending the campaign on 31 points. —Reuters

**12** Supreme Hamilton wins Spanish GP, extends championship lead

**14** The workshop that makes eliminated Italy home of the World Cup

**15** Man United beat Watford 1-0 on Carrick's final league game



**LIVERPOOL:** Liverpool's Dutch defender Virgil van Dijk (R) kicks the ball away from Brighton's English defender Lewis Dunk during the English Premier League football match between Liverpool and Brighton and Hove Albion, (Inset) Mohamed Salah celebrates after being awarded the golden boot award for most goals scored in the season. —AFP

## Liverpool qualify for Champions League

### Salah scores to set another goalscoring record

**LONDON:** Mohamed Salah's clinical first-half strike against Brighton helped confirm Liverpool's presence in the Champions League next term, and also saw the Egyptian break the record for most goals scored in a 38-game Premier League season.

Brighton had no answers at a sun-kissed Anfield as Salah's sensational form continued with him scoring his 32nd league goal of the campaign. Dejan Lovren and maiden Liverpool goals for Dominic Solanke and Andy Robertson ensured there was no final day collapse against an already safe Brighton side that simply could not cope with Liverpool's attack.

Before kick-off Jurgen Klopp's men had to forget about trying to win the Champions League in favour of just qualifying for the competition next season. Upcoming events in Kiev were, understandably, on

everybody's minds at Anfield, but a victory over Brighton was the immediate priority before focusing on the Champions League final against Real Madrid on May 26.

Liverpool had stumbled on the domestic front in recent weeks as their European adventure took its toll, allowing Chelsea an outside chance of pipping them to fourth in the table. But it was the brilliantly entertaining football showcased by Liverpool throughout most of the season that was on show as Salah also grabbed the golden boot for the Premier League's top scorer.

Brighton were fortunate to survive two early penalty shouts as firstly Shane Duffy handled a Trent Alexander-Arnold cross before the Irishman clattered into Salah. Brighton goalkeeper Matthew Ryan was then finally brought into action as he stood up well to

block a close-range Sadio Mane effort.

Those missed opportunities raised Anfield's volume by several notches, but the stadium remained anxious until Salah broke the deadlock after 26 minutes. Salah pounced on a loose ball inside the area to comfortably beat Ryan and claim his 45th goal of the season overall. The finish also put him one goal ahead of Alan Shearer, Cristiano Ronaldo and Luis Suarez who had all previously scored 31 in a 38-game Premier League season.

Salah should have had even more when, moments after his first, Mane ran through clear on goal and unselfishly squared for his team-mate but Ryan made a brave block before watching the rebound cleared off the line. Georginio Wijnaldum and Roberto Firmino then both wasted a glorious opportunity apiece before Lovren showed the attackers how to do it, rising high-

est in a cramped penalty area to nod past Ryan and kill the contest off after just 40 minutes.

With Chelsea also losing 3-0 at Newcastle, the second-half had a more professional feel to it, helped enormously by Solanke's stunning finish after 53 minutes when he rifled into the roof of the net to open his Liverpool account.

Liverpool remained on the front foot and Ryan did well to deny Firmino as he looked to cap off another hard-working afternoon with a goal. Robertson did get his first goal for the club by staying calm to thrash home a loose ball six minutes from time to add even more gloss to an afternoon of total dominance.

One European adventure for Liverpool is now guaranteed for next season: all attention now turns to a far bigger one fast approaching on the horizon. — AFP

### City reach 100 points as Jesus strikes late

**SOUTHAMPTON:** Manchester City became the first Premier League side to reach 100 points as the champions capped their memorable season in style thanks to a 1-0 win at Southampton yesterday. Pep Guardiola's side have been focused on rewriting the record books since clinching the English title almost a month ago and they added one last landmark achievement on the final day of the season.

Gabriel Jesus struck with virtually the last kick at St Mary's to take City to the century mark in suitably dramatic fashion.

Guardiola's wild celebration with his back-room staff showed what it meant to the

Spaniard for City to achieve yet another incredible feat. City's 100-point haul comes after they set a new Premier League points record by beating Brighton in midweek, taking them past the total set by Chelsea in 2004-05.

They have also scored the most goals in a single Premier League campaign (106), won the most games (32) and amassed the most consecutive victories (18) in a season that has seen them ranked along with the best teams in the history of English football. City finished 19 points clear of second placed Manchester United—the biggest title-winning margin in the Premier League era — to emphasize the gap between the runaway champions and the chasing pack. Fortunately for fourth bottom Southampton, the defeat didn't matter in their battle to avoid relegation as third bottom Swansea lost against Stoke, ensuring Mark Hughes' side avoided the drop by three points. City are due to celebrate their title success with an open-top bus parade through

the streets of Manchester today. But they had no intention of letting the impending party distract them on the south-coast.

City controlled first-half possession before Saints defender Wesley Hoedt headed against Claudio Bravo's crossbar from a Dusan Tadic corner. Guardiola's men pushed hard in the second half and Raheem Sterling struck the righthand post with a deflected effort before John Stones' header from the resultant corner was tipped over by Alex McCarthy.

Guardiola introduced youngsters Brahim Diaz and Phil Foden late on, ensuring both players have registered five appearances to earn a Premier League medal—with Foden becoming the youngest ever winner at 17 years and 350 days old.

The game appeared to heading for a draw but, six years to the day since Sergio Aguero's last-second title-winning goal for City against QPR, Jesus found space in the final moments to lift the ball over McCarthy and spark mayhem among the travelling fans. —AFP



**SOUTHAMPTON:** Manchester City's Brazilian striker Gabriel Jesus celebrates scoring the opening goal during the English Premier League football match between Southampton and Manchester City at St Mary's Stadium in Southampton, southern England yesterday. — AFP



## Business

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SINGAPORE: This photograph shows the interior of the Satair regional storage facility in Singapore's Seletar Aerospace Park. Airbus and Boeing may have built their global success on the back of the transcontinental airliners but they are now eyeing a lucrative but rather less glamorous side of the aviation sector in their battle to dominate the skies-washers and repairs. — AFP

# Airbus, Boeing fly into services market

## Singapore Airshow highlights growing importance of aviation services sector

SINGAPORE: Airbus and Boeing may have built their global success on the back of the transcontinental airliners but they are now eyeing a lucrative if rather less glamorous side of the aviation sector in their battle to dominate the skies-parts and repairs. While booming demand for air travel across has seen the world's top plane makers ramp up production, it is the multi-billion-dollar after-sales service market that is taking an increasing amount of their attention.

The aircraft titans are aggressively expanding their presence in the sector, which is dominated by maintenance, repair and overhaul of aircraft but also covers other services, from training to parts supply.

The European and American firms have long done some business in after-sales support, but they are now moving to win greater market share and take on other players like Germany's Lufthansa Technik and US-based AAR. "The services market is more lucrative than actual aircraft sales because it has more potential and it covers many different spectrums," said Shukor Yusof, an analyst with aviation research firm Endau Analytics in Malaysia.

"Boeing and Airbus-they have to be part of it. When you sell an aircraft, it's in your interest to have a full

package of after-market services."

Boeing predicts that the value of the approximately 41,000 planes that will be delivered worldwide over the next 20 years will be around \$6 trillion-while the demand for services to support this fleet will be worth around \$8.5 trillion.

In Singapore, Airbus's wholly-owned subsidiary Satair Group has an 11,000 square meter (118,000 square foot) warehouse to house spare parts. They are arranged on towering shelves in brown, yellow and orange boxes, and range from a main landing gear for an A380, the world's biggest passenger plane, worth hundreds of thousands of dollars, to a washer worth one cent. They can be dispatched from the warehouse-Airbus's biggest such facility in Asia, and second-biggest in the world-within four hours of receiving an order, with plans to further slash the waiting time.

Airbus, whose revenues from services hit \$3.2 billion

in 2017, 18 percent higher than the previous year, plans to expand the facility by 8,000 square meters next year. Both Airbus and Boeing also have major pilot training centers in Singapore.

### 'Very intense' fight

The fierce rivals play up their intimate knowledge of

### Aircraft titans play up their knowledge in lucrative sector



of the aircraft they produce as an advantage in providing after-sales support over others who could provide the services, including the airlines themselves. "We know best our aircraft because we have designed it," Airbus head of services Laurent Martinez told AFP.

"We have all the capabilities to support the airlines' operations and to have the competitive edge in terms of spare parts," Randy Tinseth, vice president of marketing at Boeing Commercial Airplanes, said the US firm currently only has a seven percent market share in the sector, and

there was plenty of room for growth.

"The products we have today can only address about 30 percent of this market," he said at the recent Singapore Airshow. "So if this market grows about five percent per year as we focus more on developing new products, we expect to see dramatic growth in our business."

The Singapore Airshow highlighted the growing importance of the sector. The largest deals at the show, the biggest in Asia, were not plane orders but contracts worth nearly \$1 billion signed by Boeing's dedicated global services unit, which was launched last year as its vehicle to expand into the after-sales market. Both companies are focusing on Asia-Pacific due to explosive growth of the aviation sector in an increasingly affluent region where many people are flying for the first time.

Airbus' Martinez said Asia-Pacific is expected to account for 40 percent of the services market over the next two decades, with the region's aircraft fleet set to almost triple by 2036. The fight for after-sales services market share between Boeing and Airbus will likely be every bit as fierce as their battle for aircraft orders. Competition "is going to be very, very tough-very intense", said analyst Shukor. — AFP

## Abubakar pledges to privatize parts of state oil firm

ABUJA: Nigeria's former vice president Atiku Abubakar will privatize parts of the country's state oil company and allow the naira currency to float to attract foreign investment if elected as head of state, he told Reuters. Abubakar also confirmed that he intends to run in next year's presidential election, becoming the biggest opposition heavyweight to say he will take on Muhammadu Buhari. The winner of February's poll will lead Africa's top oil producer and most populous nation, which is central to regional stability as it battles Islamist militants in the northeast.

Abubakar, a former key ally of President Buhari whose resources helped propel him to power, quit the ruling party in November and re-joined the opposition People's Democratic Party (PDP) a month later. He has long enjoyed support from the business elite in Nigeria's commercial capital Lagos for his conservative-capitalist ideals and, as vice president in a PDP administration from 1999-2007, he implemented a program of liberalization in areas including telecoms sector.

Abubakar said he would go further if elected president. "I am also going to expand it to include the oil and gas sector which have not

been touched at all and other major sectors of the economy like mining, solid minerals," he said. Abubakar said he would privatize parts of Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) which has been beset by decades of mismanagement and is crucial to the OPEC member's economic fortunes. He did not specify the parts that would be privatized. "I am a strong believer in very, very small government and also the private sector," he said.

A drop in crude oil prices from late 2014 pushed Nigeria into its first recession in 25 years in 2016, spawning chronic dollar shortages because oil receipts make up two-thirds of government revenue and most of the country's foreign exchange. The economy moved out of recession last year but growth remains weak and multiple exchange rates remain in place, imposed by the central bank to support Buhari's insistence that the naira should not be allowed to float. "I will allow the naira to float because I believe that is one of the ways foreign direct investment can be encouraged to come in," said Abubakar, who hopes to replicate Buhari's 2015 feat of winning a presidential election at the fourth attempt.

Buhari, who took office in 2015, and whoever becomes president next will face challenges ranging from weak economic growth to communal violence between semi-nomadic herders and farmers, as well as the Boko Haram insurgency. Abubakar - who, like Buhari, is a Muslim from the north - said voters would welcome someone who could revive their fortunes, adding that of his three previous presidential campaigns he was only once rejected by the electorate. He was not selected as a party candidate on the other two occasions. — Reuters

## UAE announces \$45bn investment to boost refineries

ABU DHABI: Abu Dhabi National Oil Co yesterday announced a \$45-billion (\$38-billion-euro) investment to modify an existing facility into one of the world's largest integrated refining and petrochemicals plants. The project aims to boost ADNOC's refining capacity by 65 percent to 1.5 million barrels per day by 2025, the state-owned firm's CEO Sultan Al-Jaber told a downstream investment forum. The work will upgrade the refining and petrochemicals plant at Ruwais in partnership with

international energy firms, he said.

ADNOC also plans to treble petrochemicals output at Ruwais from the current 4.5 million tons per year to 14.5 million tons a year, he said. Abu Dhabi, one of seven states in the United Arab Emirates, holds more than 90 percent of the federation's 98 billion barrels of crude oil reserves.

In November, Abu Dhabi announced plans to invest \$109 billion (81 billion euros) in the energy sector over the next five years. The UAE, OPEC's fourth largest producer, aims to boost crude oil production capacity from 3.2 million barrels per day at present to 3.5 million bpd at the end of the year.

Over the past few months, ADNOC has awarded concession rights at offshore sites to several international oil companies to boost its long-term production capacity. — AFP

# KFH signs co-op agreement with 'Agrivage' to empower youth

## Move emphasizes bank's commitment towards youth, environment

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Finance House (KFH), has signed a co-operation agreement with 'Agrivage', a startup business created by a group of Kuwaiti students, with the purpose of preserving the environment by recycling food waste and converting it into usable rich soil.

This comes as part of KFH social responsibility and commitment towards the youth initiatives and the environment. 'Agrivage' won coveted award INJAZ-Kuwait award, INJAZ AlArab award in addition to the honoring by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

'Agrivage' initiative is considered as highly important especially in the holy month of Ramadan. KFH support to 'Agrivage' and the signing of the cooperation agreement as the first institution in the private sector confirms the great interest KFH attaches in the activities of interest to the environment in collaboration with the concerned parties.

KFH pays great attention towards keeping the environment clean and healthy. The Bank uniquely sponsored a pioneering environmental project Umnia

for Plastic bottles recycling. This small project has now become a factory for recycling. It participated in many other environmental activities and events such as cleaning the beaches, planting of greenery and holding events for school students to encourage planting and greening.

Meanwhile, 'Agrivage' team said on the sidelines of the agreement: "we would like to take this opportunity to thank KFH for the support. This reflects the pioneering role in sponsoring the youth initiatives that reiterates the leadership in assuming the social responsibility.

KFH was established in Kuwait in 1977 and is enlisted in the Kuwait Stock Exchange. KFH Group is a global pioneer in the field of Islamic banking services, where it offers a wide array of Islamic products and services, not to mention a high standard of innovation and customer service.

KFH manages its operations in the GCC, Asia, and Europe through over 480 branches, including KFH-Turkey, in order to offer services for the bank's customers in Turkey, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain,



KFH officials with 'Agrivage' team.

Germany, and the UAE. KFH's mission is to achieve highest levels of excellence and innovation in the field of customer service, while developing common interest for all those concerned with the financial institu-

tion. KFH's vision is to spearhead the global development in Islamic financial services, and to upgrade the bank into the level of becoming the most sustainable profitable Islamic bank in the world.



### Agrivage initiative crucial in Ramadan

#### Bayt.com weekly report

## Communications at Work 101

**KUWAIT:** As social media and smart phones have been taking a major part of our daily lives, some of us might have overlooked and neglected some important communication skills. Communication skills are considered vital to an individual, regardless of their position or what they do for a living. It comes in three different types: verbal, non-verbal and written, and for all those types you will need a certain skill set. Even in the common, daily work routine, you end up using the three types, whether or not you notice it.

Being misunderstood is one's worst nightmare, right? It is quite frustrating when you try to explain yourself over and over again and send across a specific point but you find no success in that. Have you ever wondered why? What went wrong? We have all been in this situation at least once.

We often go in the direction of the least resistant path, in almost everything we do, and that is in our nature as humans. However, if you choose to follow that path with your communication skills, you risk holding back your career. Effective communications skills at the work place will make others perceive you as a leader; will improve teamwork, and will build greater trust and respect in your professional and even personal life.

From Bayt.com, the Middle East's #1 Job Site, check out the points below, and observe yourself and whether you are taking action to actually be an effective communicator.

#### • Be serious and confident

Confidence and seriousness are two attributes that should not be taken for granted

and should appear in your communication. As soon as your managers and coworkers sense hesitation and indecision in your tone, they probably won't take the information you share very seriously. Add credibility and accuracy to your conversations and professional presentations by giving clear information and using an assertive tone.

Likewise, if you are a job seeker, communicating your confidence in your abilities and your seriousness about the job can radiate positive energy and can make you a more impressive candidate.

#### • Be straight to the point and expressive

Explain yourself openly when you are about to type an email or make a verbal statement. Be detailed if you need to be but not excessively so. Being direct means avoiding swirling around a topic or going on tangent issues. Being direct also means being well structured in your sentences, thought process, and formatting.

Even in verbal communication, be direct and explain yourself. Your manager and coworkers do get tons of emails daily and they do value their time and yours. Thus, you can shorten this email or that talk by being concise and straight to the point. The same rule applies to job seeker communication with employers, whether written or verbal.

#### • Be open-minded

Conversations are a two-ways street. Keep an open mind while communicating with your coworkers or even potential employer and respect the other person's points and opinions. Be open to listen and understand the other person.

#### • Seek feedback

One important skill to gain is to be able to give and receive feedback effectively.

Receiving feedback, whether it is a positive or negative, is a booster; positive feedback encourage you to keep going and performing your best, while negative feedback will wake you up to better improve yourself. Giving room for feedback will definitely make you a good listener.

#### • Know your audience

Knowing what the listener likes to hear and in what way they like to communicate makes your communication much more efficient. Don't assume that all people like to hear long stories, or know all about numbers. Different people have different interests, and as you are bound to communicate with them, you would need to adapt to each individual's preference.

While verbal and written types of communications have many tactics and tricks that can be used, body language and non-verbal communication weigh the same exact amount in terms of importance. Eye contact, hand gestures, body language, and tone all plays a role in your communications skills. You would need to appear friendly and approachable by looking the person in the eye, being relaxed and having an open stance.

Effective workplace communication increases workers' productivity. Communicating efficiently with team members and coworkers results in better overall company performance. Also, being able to adapt with diverse teams or cultures in terms of communication and keeping an open mind helps an individual grow intellectually.

Keep in mind that your communication skills are one of the most essential elements that companies nowadays review. In fact, the Bayt.com Middle East Job Index Survey showed that communication is the top most sought after skill.

## KFH-Bahrain launches new VISA 'SmartPay' Credit Card

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Finance House - Bahrain (KFH-Bahrain) has announced the launch of its new VISA credit card 'SmartPay'. This new product reiterates the Bank's commitment to continuously providing flexible financing solutions that address specific needs and provide enhanced benefits for its clients.

'SmartPay' provides card holders with the option of scheduling their payments across 36 months depending on the monthly instalment plan they choose.

On this occasion, the Executive Manager and Head of Retail Banking Group at KFH-Bahrain, Khalid Rafea said: "It is our pleasure to introduce the latest edition of our VISA Platinum line-up to our clients in the Kingdom of Bahrain. 'SmartPay' provides ideal banking solutions through its many features

including comfortable instalments."

"In today's challenging market the client demands for easier, more reliable and transparent services are increasing rapidly. The 'SmartPay' product is one way for KFH-Bahrain to try to meet these demands and add a holistic convenience to our cardholders by offering them a reliable way to manage their credit card payments," he added.

"After every transaction, a text message (SMS) will be received, where the client will be able to choose the repayment period based on equal monthly instalments up to 3 years. This option will be available to cardholders with each transaction," he concluded.

'SmartPay' is a sharia-compliant product and grants extended warranty and purchase protection. It also provides exclusive services in more than 25 Airport Lounges, free supplementary cards provided upon client request as well as free travel insurance and cash withdraw service. KFH Credit Cards provide its holders free air miles with their preferred air lines company. In addition, KFH Credit Card holders who invest in "Libshara" will automatically enrol in Libshara segment draw to get the chance of winning cash prizes.



KFH-Bahrain

## EXCHANGE RATES

### AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES	
Japanese Yen	2.806
Indian Rupees	4.630
Pakistani Rupees	2.602
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.933
Nepali Rupees	2.902
Singapore Dollar	230.250
Hongkong Dollar	38.311
Bangladesh Taka	3.593
Philippine Peso	5.793
Thai Baht	9.679

GCC COUNTRIES	
Saudi Riyal	80.210
Qatari Riyal	82.644
Omani Riyal	781.445
Bahraini Dinar	798.990
UAE Dirham	81.946

ARAB COUNTRIES	
Egyptian Pound - Cash	0.000
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	17.039
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.208
Tunisian Dinar	126.080
Jordanian Dinar	423.910
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.005
Syrian Lira	0.000
Morocco Dirham	33.227

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES	
US Dollar/Transfer	300.700

Euro	371.670
Sterling Pound	426.390
Canadian dollar	238.080
Turkish lira	74.520
Swiss Franc	315.860
Australian Dollar	234.090
US Dollar Buying	299.500

#### GOLD

20 Gram	260.520
10 Gram	133.180
5 Gram	67.430

### DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	302.190
Canadian Dollar	233.955
Sterling Pound	410.280
Euro	359.600
Swiss Frank	305.900
Bahrain Dinar	803.635
UAE Dirhams	82.680
Qatari Riyals	83.910
Saudi Riyals	81.480
Jordanian Dinar	427.500
Egyptian Pound	17.133
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.918
Indian Rupees	4.496
Pakistani Rupees	2.611
Bangladesh Taka	3.619
Philippines Pesto	5.817
Cyprus pound	17.985

Japanese Yen	3.755
Syrian Pound	1.590
Nepalese Rupees	2.809
Malaysian Ringgit	76.640
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	47.880
Thai Bhat	10.410
Turkish Lira	70.200

### BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
Europe		
British Pound	0.404422	0.411922
Czech Korune	0.006168	0.015468
Danish Krone	0.044458	0.049458
Euro	0.356376	0.363578
Georgian Lari	0.138349	0.138349
Hungarian 0.001139	0.001329	0.001329
Norwegian Krone	0.033848	0.039048
Romanian Leu	0.064664	0.081514
Russian ruble	0.004904	0.004904
Slovakia	0.009002	0.019002
Slovenia	0.031209	0.036209
Swedish Krona	0.296053	0.307053
Swiss Franc		
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.220150	0.232160
New Zealand Dollar	0.204818	0.214318
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.231086	0.240086
US Dollars	0.298200	0.302600
US Dollars Mint	0.298700	0.302600

Asia	
Bangladesh Taka	0.003004
Chinese Yuan	0.046222
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036766
Indian Rupee	0.003857
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000017
Japanese Yen	0.002684
Korean Won	0.000273
Malaysian Ringgit	0.072743
Nepalese Rupee	0.002726
Pakistan Rupee	0.001952
Philippine Peso	0.005636
Singapore Dollar	0.221375
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001616
Taiwan	0.010372
Thai Baht	0.009168

Arab	
Bahraini Dinar	0.795076
Egyptian Pound	0.014557
Iranian Riyal	0.000084
Iraqi Dinar	0.000203
Jordanian Dinar	0.421784
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000155
Moroccan Dirhams	0.022273
Omani Riyal	0.778877
Qatar Riyal	0.078744
Saudi Riyal	0.079527
Syrian Pound	0.001281
Tunisian Dinar	0.117105
Turkish Lira	0.066353
UAE Dirhams	0.080860
Yemeni Riyal	0.000982

## Business

## NBK Money Markets Report

# Oil prices hit a 4-year high as US pulls out of Iran nuke deal

## Equity markets upbeat on US inflation outlook

**KUWAIT:** Last week, president Trump declared the United States' unilateral withdrawal from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). The JCPOA is an international nuclear agreement that served to control Iran's nuclear program, signed in conjunction with China, France, Germany, Russia, and the UK and approved by the UN Security Council in 2015. Moreover, Trump order that all US sanctions would be re-implemented and entities will have a grace period of 90 days or 180 days to cut their exposures to Iran. The most significant sanctions will be re-imposed after 180 days, encompassing oil sanctions that entail noteworthy reductions in the acquisition of Iranian crude.

Looking at the possibility of countries backing US sanctions, certain allies including Japan and South Korea may comply with the proposed sanctions on Iran due to the concern of losing US security on the North Korean issue. On the other hand, China, Turkey, Russia and India may be in conflict with the sanctions because of their interests of purchasing Iranian crude oil.

As for the currency market, most majors weren't affected by the US withdrawal from the nuclear deal as they ended the weekly session where they had started off on Monday. It was a different story for appreciating currencies like the Canadian dollar, Norwegian krone and Russian ruble. Currencies of some oil exporting countries soared last week after oil prices spiked to a 4-year high and Brent crude oil reached \$78 a barrel. The increase in oil prices could create losers and winners in the FX market depending on whether the nation is a net importer or exporter of oil.

### US inflation outlook

Consumer prices in America edged up modestly last month pointing to a steady buildup in inflation. The CPI came in at 2.5 percent, the biggest gain in 14 months after rising 2.4 percent in March. The 3 percent jump in gasoline prices was the main factor for the increase in consumer inflation. However, the core data was muted as the annual rate remained unchanged at 2.1 percent on an annual basis. The big picture remains that core inflation has accelerated this year faster than Fed officials anticipat-

ed just a few months ago, which will keep the Fed on track to raise interest rates again in June.

The momentum of inflation on the producer level decelerated in April after recording robust readings in past three months. Industrial price growth inflated 2.6 percent annually last month, down from 3 percent seen in March. Excluding volatility caused from food and energy prices, core PPI rose 2.4 percent from a 2.7 percent recorded in the previous month. That puts a slight dent into what has, over recent weeks, been a growing sense of confidence in the market and among Federal Reserve policymakers on the US inflation outlook.

Despite the latest downward trend in



### China economic growth seen cooling to 6.5%

price growth, the slightly weaker figure may be temporary as manufacturers have been reporting higher expenditures on raw materials. The Fed's preferred inflation indicator, the core PCE is currently at 1.9 percent and is expected to breach the 2 percent objective in the coming months. President Trump exited the Iran nuclear deal, therefore higher energy prices could kick-start a new round of inflation at the producer level. Overall, price growth has gained decent upward movement in the past several months from wages to consumer inflation and on the producer front. Therefore, it is clear that inflation is broad based. The slightly weak figure witnessed last month may not alter the Fed's gradual path of monetary tightening if the downward pressure on inflation doesn't persist.

### Hold on interest rates

The Bank of England voted 7-2 to retain its interest rate at 0.5 percent, while asset purchases was also maintained at GBP

435B with a unanimous vote. Governor Carney contradicted the Office for National Statistics' assessment, stating that the feeble economic data in Q1 2018 was related to harsh weather conditions and assumes that the statistical office would soon reassess the weak 0.1 percent estimate of growth rate higher. On the negative side, the Bank decreased its inflation and growth forecasts for the quarters to come. The Q1 shock in growth seems to have been instrumental in cutting the GDP projection for this year to 1.4 percent from 1.8 percent. An expansion of 1.4 percent this year can put Britain at the very bottom of the developed nations. As for the inflation outlook, price growth is projected to fall back more quickly to hit the 2 percent target in two years. In details, Q2 2018 inflation was revised down to 2.4 percent, from 2.7 percent. For Q2 2019, the level was lowered to 2.1 percent, from 2.2 percent. Q2 2020 inflation expectations decelerated to 2.0 percent, from 2.1 percent. The reason for the diminished inflation outlook was due to a faster fading of the impact of Sterling's depreciation on import prices.

On the interest rate sphere, money markets currently foresee three rate rises from the Bank over the next three years, with the first occurring late this year or in early 2019. Although, everywhere you look, the economic debate for tightening monetary policy is retreating. House prices are depreciating, retail sales are soft and the services sector is on pause because of Brexit uncertainties. The overall theme will be recorded as a dovish hold by the BoE, that means the Super Thursday norm was maintained and the pound fell for the 9th time out of the 12 Super Thursday we have had so far. The Sterling has now lost 5.5 percent of its value to the buck since mid-April.

### Weak price growth in Switzerland

Swiss consumer inflation disappointed markets last month as the figure was halved to 0.2 percent m/m from 0.4 percent. That brings the annual rate to 0.8 percent year on year in April, below the expected 0.9 percent. Therefore, the latest figure on price growth supports the case that the central bank will maintain its loose monetary strate-



gy until it achieves the price objective. The weak CPI data paved the way for the Dollar to gain nearly 0.5 percent ground over the CHF to 1.0045. The Swiss franc is extremely sensitive to interest rate differentials as the economy still persists in a negative interest rate environment.

### A mixed Chinese inflation report

China's latest inflationary report was mixed as consumer prices descended, while producer price growth rose for the first time in 7 months. The annual CPI fell from 2.1 percent to 1.8 percent in April, mainly due to food prices slowing down sharply. Therefore, this confirms the assessment that the spike in February was only one-off and was largely the result of the New Year Effect. The core CPI indicator that excludes volatile of food and energy prices rose 2.0 percent y/y, unchanged from March.

On the producer front, annual inflation accelerated to 3.4 percent compared to 3.1 percent in the preceding month. The rise in PPI is largely attributed to higher commodity prices. Looking at the breakdown, prices increased faster in the following industries: petroleum and natural gas extraction (15.2 percent y/y in April vs 6.9 y/y in March), chemical material and product (6.2 percent y/y vs 5.2 percent y/y), and petroleum refining (10.2 percent y/y vs 8.5 percent y/y).

In spite of a stronger than forecasted

Q1 GDP data, economists polled by Reuters still expect China's economic growth to cool to 6.5 percent this year from 6.9 percent recorded in 2017. The CPI index is well below the government's 3 percent objective and the threat of a trade war with the US enhances the risks facing the world's second largest economy in coming months. Therefore, it is likely that the central bank will maintain its current monetary policy with little signs of overheating in the economy.

### BoJ's policy meeting

The BoJ's meeting minutes of March 8-9 didn't reveal any new clues on Japan's monetary path as the dovish theme on inflation persisted. Governor Kuroda indicated the central bank's readiness to ramp up stimulus if the economy loses steam, in a push against assumption it could cut down monetary support earlier than expected. Given that price advancement expectations are still well below the 2 percent objective and policy has been steady since 2014, the BoJ has little reason to think about raising rates. Market hunger for a change in BoJ policy is unlikely to be satisfied and the Banks view is only likely to change if inflation expectations pick up.

### Kuwait

Kuwaiti dinar at 0.30145  
The USDKWD opened at 0.30145 yesterday.

## Brexit seen threatening UK links in EU supply chain

**SHIPLEY, England:** Mandy Ridyard knew Brexit was going to be a challenge for her aviation components firm, but it was still a shock when she heard a French company bluntly ruling out British suppliers from an international bid for a contract in China. There was just too much uncertainty about Brexit to include British companies in the group, a representative of the firm told a meeting of business representatives and government officials from Britain and France in February.

"The elephant in the room was Brexit," Ridyard said of the meeting, which was organised by the British embassy in Paris to spur more bilateral business but only served to increase her anxiety about Britain's departure from the European Union. "If companies are not currently looking to the UK for their products, then we will be losing out on a generation of strategic deals," Ridyard said. "That business will be gone."

One of the biggest concerns for manufacturers as Britain heads into crunch Brexit negotiations this year is over one of the building blocks of cross-border trade: a customs regime. There are signs that many EU companies are holding back on using British firms in their supply chains - which can involve parts criss-crossing borders several times - because of what they still don't know about tariffs, regulations and the potential for costly delays at the border.

Jeegar Kakkad, policy director at ADS, a British aerospace trade group, said big aviation firms were now asking British suppliers to warehouse a month's worth of stock at their own expense, to offset the risk of Brexit border delays. "That is going to be a significant challenge in particular for smaller companies," he said. Britain's economy has slowed sharply since the Brexit vote in June 2016, but Ridyard's firm, Proddmax Ltd, is so far riding out the storm.

In its plant in Shipley, a historic manufacturing center near the northern English city of Leeds once famous for its wool and cotton mills, workers using precision milling machines and lathes turn chunks of steel and aluminum into flight-critical parts used in the flaps of plane wings.

The company, which Ridyard and her husband Jeremy bought in 1997 and employs 71 people, will soon open a second site. However, new work recently has been in one-off jobs that other suppliers could



LONDON: In this file photo, a man walks past a campaign poster ahead of a press briefing by the "Leave.EU" campaign group in central London. —AFP

not fulfil, not long-term strategic contracts.

"There's no point complaining about it," said Ridyard, the company's financial director. "We're still investing. But we're just a bit more hesitant than we were."

### May's dilemma

Employers groups say the best way to limit the impact of Brexit would be to keep the world's sixth-biggest economy in a customs union with the EU.

Although staying in a customs union would not affect Britain's huge services industry, it would avoid tariffs on trade in goods with the bloc and, crucially for many manufacturers who have spent years honing just-in-time schedules, it would reduce the risk of border delays. It would also avoid the risk that a new hard border with Ireland could fuel new sectarian violence 20 years after a deal that brought peace to Northern Ireland. Prime Minister Theresa May has ruled out the customs union option, however. Brexit campaigners, including some of May's own ministers, object to it because it would stop Britain from striking bilateral trade deals, one of the big advantages of Brexit according to the Leave campaign in 2016.

Trade minister Liam Fox, a Leave supporter, said staying in a customs union would be a "complete sell-out" of voters. Instead, May has proposed that Britain could collect duties on non-EU imports on behalf of the bloc, an idea dismissed as "crazy" by her own foreign minister Boris Johnson who said it would be too bureaucratic and would still restrict Britain's ability to do deals outside the EU.

Johnson and other Leave campaigners favour a plan which they say would ease the need for border checks by using a "trusted trader" registration

scheme and camera technology.

EU officials dismiss both ideas as unworkable and many manufacturers are worried there might be no customs deal at all, putting the supply chains they rely on at serious risk. In April, Airbus Chief Executive Tom Enders said Britain had to recognize that future investments in the country were "not a given" because of the lack of clarity about Britain's long-term trade relationship with the EU.

ADS's Kakkad said a deal struck by London and Brussels in March to keep their trading ties unchanged until the end of 2020 was welcome, as was Britain's intention of staying in Europe's aviation safety agency, which could help avoid divergence in rules. But firms were not counting on a smooth transition because it remained contingent on a broader deal being reached in the coming months, he said.

### Wider world

Supporters of Brexit have long argued that the declining share of Britain's exports going to the EU - down from 54 percent in 2000 to 43 percent in 2016 - shows why it must prioritize trade deals with countries such as India, China or the United States. But for aviation, at least, bilateral trade deals are not critical, Kakkad said. Most civil aircraft parts carry no tariffs under a deal agreed by more than 50 countries, and the global industry follows standards that are increasingly harmonized, he said. What matters more to them, like other British manufacturers, is the growing importance of the EU in their supply chains. In 2014, 69 percent of British exports to the EU were goods or services used in supply chains, up from 61 percent in 2000, the Institute for Fiscal Studies think tank estimates. — Reuters

## Renault Al-Babtain gifts exceptional offers this Ramadan

**KUWAIT:** Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Co, the authorized agent of Renault in the State of Kuwait is delighted to announce its latest offers on this Ramadan season. Ensuring added benefits when purchasing a new Renault vehicle, customers are also guaranteed up to KD 1,000 cash back on purchase inclusive of a ten year warranty and third party insurance.

Customers are urged to book now the Renault Talisman, Koleos, Megane, and Duster models to enjoy the limited time offers and thrill of owning a new ride this year.

Known to enthrall sporty customers, the Renault Talisman serves as the right fit for customers seeking optimal practicality and premium led experiences through its electronic damper control for outstanding on-road dynamics, a class-leading energy TCe 190 turbocharged direct-injection petrol engine, with 190hp on tap, fuel consumption and CO2 emissions of as low as 17 km/liter and 139 g/km respectively. The Renault Talisman now starts from KD 5,800.

Designed for the adventurers, Renault Koleos's four wheel drive technology, all-terrain ability, engine and transmission line-up has been tailored to meet the needs and expectations of the Kuwaiti market. The 2.5-litre petrol engine is also an atmospheric, four-cylinder, power is 170hp (126kW) at 6,000rpm, with peak torque of 233Nm at 4,000rpm. Customers can book Renault Koleos now starting from KD 5,999. The Renault Megane is equipped with generous space for its occupants i.e. dimensions of 4.63m long and 1.81m wide, and a record wheelbase in its class of 2.71m. Owing to its dynamic styling and advanced features, the new Megane represents the next level in the compact saloon category. It comes with a 1.6-litre engine, 115hp designed to enhance driving enjoyment and reduce fuel consumption. Excluding added offers, the Renault Megane is priced starting from KD 3,799.

Renault Duster comes equipped with four-wheel drive transmission, advanced new media Nav 2.0 multimedia system that entertains and navigates while enabling hands-free Bluetooth calling; along with a cruise control system making driving seamless. The Renault Duster - Full option is available now at KD 4,750 KD. Customers are beckoned to rush to the Renault Al-Babtain showrooms in Al-Rai and take advantage of the irresistible deals.

GLOBAL ECONOMY WEEK AHEAD

Forward guidance doesn't always map the route

LONDON: After the financial crisis rocked the framework of monetary policy...

can stoke even more confusion. "Carney rather jumped the gun in hinting there was very likely to be a May hike...

"They expect us not to be on some pre-set course. They expect us to be prudent, not passive, and so if the situation is appropriate we will adjust policy," Carney said.

So why give guidance?

Statements from central bankers are always going to be scrutinized by financial professionals, word by word, for any changes in nuance.

Keep calm and carry on

The Bank of England is not alone in having to put forward guidance into reverse. Bank of Japan Governor Haruhiko Kuroda jolted markets in March...

March when he told parliament the central bank could consider and debate exiting its ultra-easy policy if inflation hit its 2 percent target as projected in the fiscal year ending in March 2020.

growth was expected to remain solid and broad-based. Sources have told Reuters ECB policymakers were keen not to upset investor expectations...

And the US Federal Reserve is now debating how to describe conditions under which it would try to slow the economy without alarming financial markets.

"What is the message we should be sending out to accompany that move?" Atlanta Fed president Raphael Bostic said in an interview.

No freakouts

European Central Bank President Mario Draghi has been more successful of late with forward guidance. Despite clear signs in business surveys of a slowdown, Draghi said at his post-decision press conference on April 26

Existential debate in US food industry: What is meat?

NEW YORK: Can a hamburger or steak be labeled "meat" if it is plant-based? That question has sparked a debate about US food labels...

Jessica Almy, policy director of the non-profit Good Food Institute, which promotes meat-alternatives, said labels must state clearly if a product is made from soy or another plant...

Almy also sees no alternative to labeling as "meat" new products made from animal cells grown in a lab. Such protein offerings are expected to hit US supermarkets and specialty shops within the next few years.

The cattle association, which represents ranchers and cattle breeders, said it wants to avoid a similar outcome to the dairy industry, which has seen alternative products made of soy, almond and other non-dairy sources take 10 percent of the "milk" market.



SAN FRANCISCO: A chef makes a vegan egg dish from mung beans at Just headquarters office in San Francisco, California. Just, who develops vegan products, recently started to work on a new kind of meat based on animal cells. — AFP

"We started seeing these products put into the meat shelves in the grocery stores with packaging, label and design misleading the consumers into believing that perhaps it is a healthier version of the traditional meat or perhaps this is real beef," said USCA spokeswoman Lia Biondo.

Industry split

For now, alternative meat products represent a tiny portion of US protein sales. But the items are becoming more widely used, and not just by vegetarians.

While the USCA petition has won some support, not all in the food industry have signed on. The Farm Bureau generally supports the idea behind the petition, but does not want oversight of alternative proteins to shift outside of the Agriculture Department.

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association, which counts among its members meat distributors and processors, has not signed the petition either. Chris Kerr, investment manager at New Crop Capital, a venture capital firm investing in alternative food companies, said efforts like the USCA petition illustrate a head-in-the-sand approach to shifting tastes.

"We are looking at a major behavioral shift by a whole segment of the consumer population, driven a lot by the millennials. They are very open to plant-based food, to being flexitarian," he said. "The industry can fight this, but they are arguably fighting against themselves because ultimately most meat producers will have some stake in this and it will be a successful outcome," he added. — AFP

ZTE woes loom as US-China trade tensions rise

WASHINGTON: With a major Chinese smartphone maker on the rocks following US sanctions, the trade spat between Washington and Beijing appears to be taking a turn for the worse for tech firms in the two global economic powerhouses.

ZTE depended on American chips and other components, and is unable to continue operating without key supplies. US officials imposed the ban last month, saying ZTE failed to abide by an agreement to stop selling to Iran and North Korea.

President Donald Trump earlier this year blocked a deal that would have allowed a Singapore-based firm to acquire US chipmaker Qualcomm, claiming it would enable Huawei to set the pace the global rollout of 5G technology.

The trade troubles threaten a technology sector that is increasingly intertwined with major players in the United States and China. "It's going to disrupt procurement, supply lines, it will affect a lot of companies in various ways," said one technology industry executive who asked to remain anonymous.

"Nobody's panicking yet but people are nervous and watching." Accelerating independence drive - James Lewis, a technology specialist with the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said the tensions are likely to prompt China to step up efforts to disconnect from the



SHANGHAI: The ZTE logo on an office building in Shanghai. Chinese telecom giant ZTE said its major operations had "ceased" following last month's US ban on American sales of critical technology to the company, raising the possibility of its collapse. — AFP

US tech sector. "The biggest impact will be to accelerate China's desire to have non-American sources of supply," Lewis said. "They don't want to be held hostage" to US tech firms.

Lewis said that with companies like Huawei and ZTE facing obstacles in the United States, "American companies see the opening to the China market closing more rapidly than they might have thought."

In the near-term, Lewis said, Chinese firms still depend on some elements of US technology, but they are moving to become more autonomous. Still, he said Washington has some justified national security concerns about preventing Huawei from becoming too dominant.

veillance and intelligence, he said. "The equipment is always calling home," he said. "If you control the updater and the infrastructure you have an immense advantage."

Huawei has long disputed any links to the Chinese government, while noting that its infrastructure and computing products are used in 170 countries. A statement from Huawei said its products "meet the highest standards of security, privacy and engineering in every country we operate," adding that "no government has ever asked us to compromise the security or integrity of any of our networks or devices."

Matt Gold, an adjunct Fordham University law professor and former deputy assistant US trade representative, said the latest problems over ZTE are unlikely to worsen relations because "the current situation is about as bad as it can get without a complete freefall."

Gold said that while the president has authority under domestic law to impose sanctions for national security reasons, such moves may violate international trade rules and laws if the actions come in the absence of war or other emergency. — AFP

Financial Markets Daily Report. Tables include Global Stock Indices, MENA Stock Indices, Global Currencies Exchange Rate, MENA Currencies Exchange Rate, Global Interest Rates, Global Bond Yields, and Commodities.

Business

# KIPCO announces net profit of KD 5.64 million for Q1 2018

## 'Diversified portfolio and prudence will help us continue steadily through 2018'

**KUWAIT:** KIPCO - the Kuwait Projects Company (Holding) - announced a net profit of KD 5.64 million (\$18.8 million), or 1.53 fils per share (\$0.51 cents), for the first three months of 2018, an increase of 11 per cent over the KD 5.07 million (\$16.9 million) reported in same period last year.

During the first quarter of 2018, the company's operating profits before provisions reached KD 23.5 million (\$78.4 million), com-

pared to KD 23.6 million (\$78.7 million) in the first quarter of last year. The company also reported a 13 per cent rise in its total revenue from operations during the first quarter of 2018, at KD 171 million (\$570.5 million) from KD 151.5 million (\$505.4 million) reported for the same period in 2017.

KIPCO's consolidated assets stood at KD 9.8 billion (\$32.7 billion) compared to KD 10.3 billion (\$34.4 billion) reported at year-end 2017.

Tariq AbdulSalam, KIPCO's Chief Executive Officer - Investment, said: "At our recent Shafaiyah Investors' Forum, we projected that the challenging external elements that affected our companies' performance in 2017 - such as competition and the weakened operating environment in the region - would continue to have an impact this year. Our positive performance this quarter reflects our sound business model and operations, and we believe that our diversi-

fied portfolio as well as years of prudent risk management and internal streamlining of operations will help us continue steadily through 2018."

The KIPCO Group is one of the biggest holding companies in the Middle East and North Africa, with consolidated assets of \$32.7 billion as at 31 March



Tariq AbdulSalam

2018. The Group has significant ownership interests in over 60 companies operating across 24 countries. The group's main business sectors are financial services, media, real estate and manufacturing. Through its core companies, subsidiaries and affiliates, KIPCO also has interests in the education and medical sectors.

## Gulf Air soars to record heights with sky high projection

**MANAMA:** Under the patronage of Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al-Khalifa, Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of Bahrain Mumtalakat Holding Company (Mumtalakat), Gulf Air, the Kingdom's national carrier, hosted a brand unveiling event gathering key government officials, dignitaries, trade and corporate partners, Falconflyer members and media outlets from across the globe. The VIP event, marking the start of Gateway Gulf Investor Forum Bahrain 2018, saw the worldwide exclusive premiere of Gulf Air's outdoor 3D projection #yearofchange video - one of the highest projections in the world, on the Four Seasons Hotel, Bahrain Bay. The projection video will soon be toured across the airline's network. The #yearofchange video showcased the broad spectrum of Gulf Air's latest developments in supporting Bahrain's economic transformation which include fleet modernization, network expansion, enhanced product offering, rebrand and long term strategic direction for continuous growth.

At the event, Zayed R Al-Zayani, Chairman of Gulf Air's Board of Directors welcomed attendees saying: "The aviation industry's economic footprint is extensive and it spans a variety of sectors across the globe. As Gateway Gulf Investor Forum Bahrain 2018 begins - this is a fitting time to look at aviation's role in supporting the global economy and, specifically, our national carrier's pivotal role in Bahrain's economic transformation. 2018 is a year of change for Gulf Air as it embarks upon a new era in its history, becoming the airline of choice with a global footprint and best in class. The 3D #yearofchange



video projection showcased tonight sheds light on the future shape of Gulf Air and its growing positive impact on Bahrain, the region and the aviation sector as a whole. As one of the world's tallest projection screenings, with a truly inspiring vision of our Kingdom's future and the potential of our national carrier, we hope all our guests and the Bahraini public as a whole, enjoy it. We are looking forward to a promising future for Gulf Air and the wealth of possibility that comes with this new and exciting chapter for the Kingdom of Bahrain and its national carrier."

### Incoming fleet

Gulf Air's incoming fleet of 39 new Boeing and Airbus aircraft will see by end-2018 the arrival of 5 Boeing 787-9 Dreamliners and 2 Airbus A320neo aircraft. Gulf Air's new and highly anticipated fleet entry, the airline's first Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner, arrived on 27th April and will serve Gulf Air's double daily London Heathrow service, offering increased capacity and enhanced, superior on-board products and services. Gulf Air's incoming aircraft orders will ensure it maintains one of the youngest fleets in the region while building upon its award-winning reliability, on time

performance and product and service standards. In 2018, Gulf Air's network will serve 49 cities in 26 countries. This summer, Gulf Air is launching flights to its newest destinations including flights to Abha and Tabuk in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Bangalore and Calicut in India, Alexandria and Sharm El Shaikh in Egypt, Casablanca in Morocco and



Baku in Azerbaijan.

Gulf Air is committed to being an industry leader, continually enhancing its services and tailoring a product offering that best fits its passengers' needs. The airline is famous for its traditional Arabian hospitality, evidenced by its signature family and business friendly products. Today, Gulf Air operates double dai-

ly flights or more to select destinations across the GCC, MENA region, Indian Subcontinent and Europe while its network spans the GCC, MENA region, Indian Subcontinent, Europe and the Far East. The airline provides seamless connectivity for passengers travelling across its network via its efficient Bahrain International Airport hub.



## Burgan Bank announces winners of Yawmi account draw

**KUWAIT:** Burgan Bank, the second largest in terms of assets, announced yesterday the names of the daily draw winners of its Yawmi account draw, each taking home a cash-prize of KD 5,000.

The lucky winners are:

1. Fayez Naser Sanat Alghadhouri
2. Mohammad Hazzaa Lafi Almutairi
3. Saeed Hajej Alibrahim
4. Waleed Saleh Hasan Alali
5. Hanan Muhsein Qassem Essa

In addition to the daily draw, Burgan Bank also offers a Quarterly Draw with more chances to win higher rewards, offering the chance to one lucky customer to win KD 125,000 every three months. The Yawmi Account offers daily and quarterly draws, wherein the quarterly draw requires customers to maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 in their account for two months prior to the draw date. Additionally, every KD 10 in the account will entitle customers to one chance of winning. If the account balance is KD 500 and above, the account holder will be qualified for



both the quarterly and daily draws. Burgan Bank encourages everyone to open a Yawmi account and/or increase their deposit to maximize their chances of becoming a winner. The higher the level of the deposit, the higher the likelihood to win. Established in 1977, Burgan Bank is the youngest commercial bank and second largest by assets in Kuwait, with a significant focus on the corporate and financial institutions sectors, as well as having a growing retail, and private bank customer base. Burgan Bank has majority owned subsidiaries in the MENAF region supported by one of the largest regional branch networks.

The Bank has continuously improved its performance over the years through an expanded revenue structure, diversified funding sources, and a strong capital base. The adoption of state-of-the-art services and technology has positioned it as a trend-setter in the domestic market and within the MENA region. Burgan Bank's brand has been created on a foundation of real values - of trust, commitment, excellence and progression, to remind us of the high standards to which we aspire. 'People come first' is the foundation on which its products and services are developed.

## Al-Tijari announces winner of Al-Najma new prize program

**KUWAIT:** Commercial Bank of Kuwait announced the winner of the weekly draw as follows: -

Weekly Draw prize KD 5000- Zainab Ahmad Al-Rasheed

The draw was conducted in the presence of Ministry of Commerce and Industry representative Latifa Al Jeean. Al-Najma Account was recently revamped by adding several benefits to the prize program through which now the account provides its customers the chance to win the biggest annual cash prize offered by a bank in Kuwait and over the globe as much as 1 million and half Kuwaiti dinar (1,500,000) so that customers' dreams can easily turn to reality.

The bank stated that the account prizes this year is featured by the highest cash prize and diversity of prizes throughout the year clarifying that Al-Najma Account will offer weekly prize of KD 5,000 and monthly prize

of KD 20,000 and a semi-annual prize of KD 500,000 for which the draw will be held on 1st July 2018 in addition to the grand prize (the biggest prize in the world) of KD 1,500,000 for which the draw will be held in January 2019. Al-Najma Account can be opened by depositing KD 100, and customer should maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 to be eligible to enter all draws on Al-Najma Account prizes. As for the chances of winning, the more balance a customer maintains in Al Najma Account, the more chances the account holder will get to win, where each KD 25 will give the customer one chance to win, the account also offers additional benefits like the ATM card, a credit card against customer's account and all CBK banking services that customer can enjoy.

Now CBK existing customers can open Al-Najma Account through Al-Tijari Online and enter all draws without visiting the Bank



branch. However, CBK non-customers can submit account opening application via the Bank's website where the Bank's Sales Unit will call them to arrange the visit to the customers to complete the account opening formalities.

## Global distributes \$32m to its clients investing in its equity fund GMFA

**KUWAIT:** Global Investment House (Global), a regional asset management and investment banking firm headquartered in Kuwait with offices in major capital markets in the MENA region, announced yesterday that its alternative asset management arm, Global Capital Management (GCM), has distributed \$32million to its clients investing in its private equity fund, Global MENA Financial Assets Limited (GMFA).

The distributed amount, which represents around 14 percent of the Fund's current Net Asset Value (NAV), is the result of successful exits from two portfolio companies, effectively managed and operationally transformed by the Private Equity Asset Management team of Global along with other shareholders of the portfolio companies. The first exit is from Asian Finance Bank, a boutique corporate bank in Malaysia and the second from Bindar Trading and Investment a leading consumer finance company in Jordan.

Sulaiman Al-Rubaie, Deputy CEO of Global and Managing Partner of GCM commented: "We continue to deliver our commitments to our clients. These distributions come at challenging times for the regional capital markets witnessing low liquidity and challenging business environment. We had put in tremendous efforts to build the value in these assets by working closely with the management and other shareholders. We are proud that the private equity funds managed by Global have been consistent in value creation and



Sulaiman M Al-Shaheen Al-Rubaie

Zakir Rizvi

portfolio exits, which pave a way for constant cash distributions to our clients since inception."

Zakir H Rizvi, Partner at GCM commented: "Through an effective involvement and value creation strategies, we were able to grow the portfolio companies and improve operational profitability. Both portfolio exits were executed at competitive multiples, thanks to the value creation, right timing, and effective exit strategies pursued by the GCM team."

With this distribution, the total amount distributed to clients investing in GMFA reached \$141 million and total amount distributed by the private equity asset management team reached \$612 million to funds' investors since inception. Private Equity funds managed by Global have undergone a successful operational turnaround in many of their key investments which had put most of the portfolio companies back on positive growth trajectory. The Private Equity Team of Global has managed 45 exits since inception and 34 exits since 2009.

It is worth noting that Global MENA Financial Assets Limited "GMFA" is a Guernsey incorporated fund offering attractive absolute gains through investment in a diversified portfolio of financial and non-financial sector assets, focused predominantly in the MENA Region including Turkey.

## UK's Corbyn joins London workers' march

**LONDON:** British opposition leader Jeremy Corbyn joined thousands of workers marching through central London on Saturday to demand a "new deal" on working conditions and an end to what the organizers called the worst pay squeeze in modern history.

The Trades Union Congress used the march to call for a higher minimum wage, improved job security and investment in public services as it released research saying that wages were still worth less in real terms than

before the financial crisis. "This demonstration today is about workers' rights, it is about collective endeavor but above all, it's a declaration that we're around to campaign as long as it takes, to bring about that social justice and that decency in society," Corbyn told the rally.

The TUC said real wages were not forecast to return to their pre-financial crash levels until 2025. It said that would mark the worst period of wage stagnation for two centuries. "It's taking wages longer to recover from this crash than from the Great Depression and Second World War," TUC General Secretary Frances O'Grady said. Labour's Corbyn told the rally a Labor government would increase training for young workers, build more homes, nationalize some sectors and give workers a greater say in how their companies are run, including whether they should be sold. — Reuters

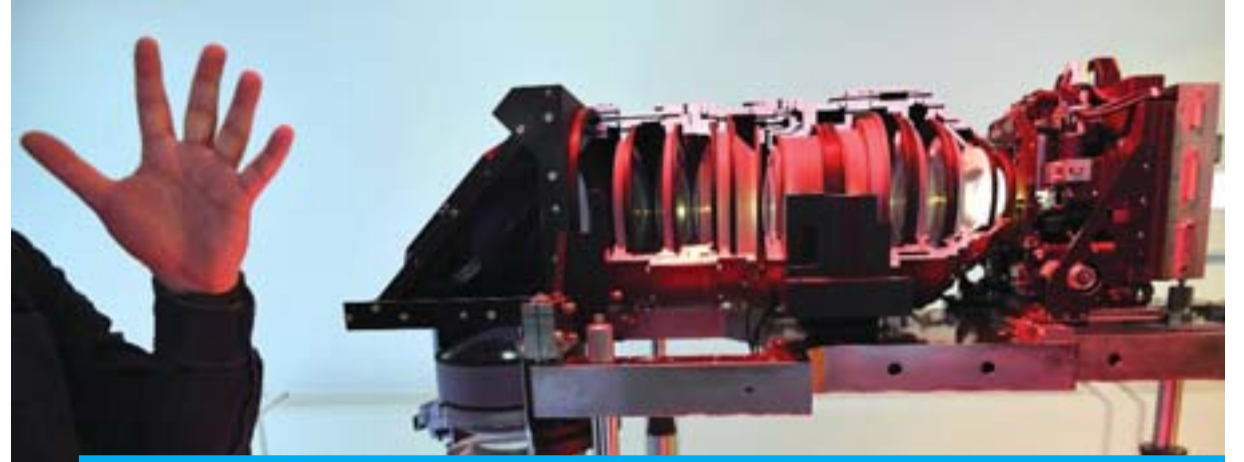
## Technology

# ASML perfecting 'microchip shrink' to push boundaries for tech giants

## Quietly become a world leader in the semiconductor business



VELDHOVEN: An employee makes his way in a laboratory at ASML, a Dutch company which is currently the largest supplier in the world of semiconductor manufacturing machines via photolithography systems.



VELDHOVEN: A view of a lens used into the manufacturing of semiconductor circuits at ASML, a Dutch company which is currently the largest supplier in the world of semiconductor manufacturing machines via photolithography systems.

VELDHOVEN, Netherlands: They call it "the shrink", it's the challenge of how to pack more circuits onto the microchips which power everything from our phones to our computers, even our coffee machines. And pushing the boundaries of this technology is Dutch company ASML, which since its foundation in 1984 has quietly become a world leader in the semiconductor business.

"There is more power in your smartphone today than was used to put man on the moon," says ASML's chief operating officer Frederic Schneider-Maunoury, animatedly waving his mobile phone in the air. When you open an app on your phone, the chain allowing you to book a flight, message a friend or check out who's hot in your neighborhood arcs all the way back most likely to ASML.

Headquartered in Veldhoven, near the Belgian border, it

builds sophisticated lithography machines to enable the world's top chip makers—Intel, Samsung and Apple supplier Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing (TSMC)—to produce the smallest, most powerful, most cost-effective microprocessors on the planet. Its newest machines use highly-focused extreme ultra-violet (EUV) light to imprint designs on the chips, and are at the cutting-edge of what is scientifically and technologically possible in the art of miniaturization.

### Long seen as a bellwether of the tech industry



#### 'Phones are not for calling'

Last year after two decades of research and development and billions of euros, ASML shipped its first 12 EUV machines to clients. Each costs about 120 million euros (\$145 million). This year it has projected sales of 20 machines-by 2020, it hopes to be selling 35 to 40 a year. It is ironic that these machines, which produce chips of

infinitesimally small dimensions, are the size of a bus. Three Boeing 747 aircraft are needed to transport one machine to a client.

Long seen as a bellwether of the tech industry, the company is listed on both the Amsterdam bourse, the AEX, and the Nasdaq in New York. Last year it announced profits had almost doubled to 2.12 billion euros on record sales of 9.05 billion euros. Only two other companies in the world—the Japanese giants Nikon and Canon—make lithography machines and neither has yet developed EUV technology.

"Our problem is not just to find the technologies, we then have to put it into the products in an economical way," Schneider-Maunoury told AFP, in his office overlooking ASML's sprawling site. "Why buy a new phone? It's not to make calls on. I buy a new phone precisely because it allows me to do things that the previous phone didn't," he said. But this is a competitive market, and if the new phone "is going to cost me 10 times more, than I'm not going to buy it". A former vice-president at French rail giant Alstom, he joined ASML in 2010 and has become increasingly passionate about its innovative technology.

#### Accurate 'to within an atom'

The EUV system works by projecting the light through a blueprint, ASML explains. Using a series of complex optics, made by German company Zeiss, "the pattern is reduced and focused onto a thin slice of silicon coated with a light-sensitive chemical". "The light interacts with the chemical effectively printing the pattern onto the silicon or wafer. When the unwanted silicon is etched away a three-dimensional structure is created." This is repeated dozens of times, layer upon layer, leaving a grid of hundreds of chips on one silicon wafer.

The light has to be focused in a vacuum to stop it being absorbed by air—a difficult technological feat—and the parameters are so small that the machine is working "to within the size of an atom". The tiniest speck of dust infiltrating the machine could ruin the design, leaving blank spaces on the chips. ASML now employs about 20,000 people, mostly engineers and most in Veldhoven, but it also has sites in Asia and the United States. And as it grows it is hiring. Some 3,000 new posts were added last year, with a similar number of new jobs expected this year. —AFP

## Apple back carbon-free aluminum smelting tech

MONTREAL: Canada and Quebec province, as well as tech giant Apple, recently announced their backing of aluminum producers Alcoa and Rio Tinto's new joint venture to develop a carbon-free smelting process. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau made the announcement with executives of the three companies on hand.

Apple is investing Can\$13 million (US\$10 million) in the joint venture, and will provide technical support. Rio and Alcoa are investing Can\$55 million (US\$43 million), while the Canadian and Quebec governments will each invest Can\$60 million (US\$47 million) in a first round of financing. The technology promises to be "the most significant innovation in the aluminum industry in more than a century, and marks a decisive step forward in the fight against climate change," said a statement.

"Once fully developed and implemented, the ground-breaking technology will virtually eliminate the Canadian aluminum industry's carbon footprint." Aluminum is used in everything from cars and planes, softdrink cans, foil and window frames, as well as in Apple smartphones, tablets and computers.

The sector employs 10,500 people in Canada. Alcoa is the largest aluminum producer in the United States and Rio is the world's second-largest miner.

Their joint venture is to be named Elysis and headed by Rio executive Vincent Christ. It will be based in Montreal, with a research facility in Quebec's Saguenay region. The new technology is expected to be ready for licensing to retrofit smelters or build new facilities by 2024. According to Ottawa, it has the potential to reduce annual greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 6.5 million metric tonnes in Canada—the equivalent of taking 1.8 million cars off the road. "We are proud to be part of this ambitious new project, and look forward to one day being able to use aluminum produced without direct greenhouse gas emissions in the manufacturing of our products," Apple chief executive Tim Cook said in the statement. —AFP



## US investigating battery fire in fatal Tesla crash

SAN FRANCISCO: The US National Transportation Safety Board recently sent a team to investigate a Tesla Model S crash that left two people dead and another injured in Florida. The 2014 Tesla was reportedly traveling at high speed when it hit a wall then caught fire on Tuesday, the NTSB said in a release. Autopilot self-driving capabilities of the Tesla were not expected to be involved, the NTSB said.

Two 18-year-old Florida men died in the crash, while a third was hospitalized, according to local media reports that said it remained to be determined why the Tesla went off a road and slammed into a wall. NTSB investigators dispatched Wednesday were to focus on a battery fire ignited by the crash in the coastal city of Fort Lauderdale.

"NTSB has a long history of investigating emerging transportation technologies, such as lithium ion battery fires in commercial aviation," NTSB chairman Robert Sumwalt said in a release. "The goal of these investigations is to understand the

impact of these emerging transportation technologies when they are part of a transportation accident."

A Tesla statement published in Florida media reports said the car maker is cooperating with investigators and it did not appear that the Autopilot feature was engaged at the time of the crash. In a spat with NTSB, Tesla last month said it "withdrew" from an agreement to participate in the investigation into a fiery March 23 crash in California that involved its "Autopilot" feature. But the NTSB announced the "removal of Tesla," after the company disclosed information the agency said could taint the public understanding of what happened, in violation of the agreement. Tesla hit back at the statement from the independent federal agency that investigates aviation and transit accidents, and questioned its motives.

"Among other things, they repeatedly released partial bits of incomplete information to the media in violation of their own rules, at the same time that they were trying to prevent us from telling all the facts," Tesla said at the time. "We don't believe this is right and we will be making an official complaint to Congress." The NTSB is investigating the accident that led to the death of a 38-year-old father of two, Walter Huang.

Tesla has released several statements on the accident, including a March 30



NEW YORK: A Tesla on display at the MARCUS meatpacking grand opening Event at Marcus Meat Packing. —AFP

blog post that expressed sorrow for the family but defended its technology and pointed responsibility for the crash on the driver.

Huang's hands were "not detected on the wheel for six seconds prior to the

collision," Tesla said in the blog. The company also noted that the accident occurred at a confusing highway interchange, and the protective shield on the concrete barrier involved in the crash was not in proper condition. —AFP

## Walmart may launch IPO for Flipkart in four years

MUMBAI: Walmart Inc said on Saturday in a filing with a US regulator that it may take India's Flipkart public in as early as four years, detailing for the first time a potential listing timeline for Walmart's largest-ever acquisition. Minority investors holding 60 percent of Flipkart's shares "acting together, may require Flipkart to effect an initial public offering" (IPO) four years after the close of the Walmart-Flipkart transaction, the Bentonville, Arkansas-based retailer said in a May 11 filing with the US Securities and Exchange Commission.

The IPO should be done at no less a valuation than that at which Walmart invested in the Indian e-commerce firm, the filing said. Walmart announced earlier this week that it will pay \$16 billion for a roughly 77 percent stake in Flipkart in what is the US retail giant's largest-ever deal and a move to take on arch rival Amazon.com Inc in a key growth market.

The investment implies a valuation of nearly \$21 billion for Bengaluru-headquartered Flipkart. Minority shareholders after the deal include co-founder Binny Bansal, China's Tencent Holdings, US hedge fund Tiger Global Management and Microsoft Corp. The deal now awaits clearance from India's anti-trust regulator and is expected to close later this year. As part of the deal, Walmart will initially appoint five directors to Flipkart's board, two directors will be named by minority shareholders while Bansal will take one board seat, according to the filing.

Walmart said it may, in future, appoint a sixth board member with the approval of the majority of the Flipkart directors. It also said it could appoint or replace Flipkart's chief executive and other key executives of group companies in consultation with Bansal and the board. Walmart or its units could ask Flipkart to issue new ordinary shares of up to \$3 billion before the close of the "transactions and



In this photograph taken on October 30, 2015, Indian employees look on during the launch of Flipkart's largest Fulfillment Centre on the outskirts of Hyderabad. —AFP

or before the first anniversary of the closing", it said.

Reuters previously reported that Google-parent Alphabet was in talks to invest about \$3 billion for a roughly 15 percent stake in Flipkart. That deal could be sealed before the close of the Walmart-Flipkart transaction or immediately after, a source told Reuters, declining to be named as the talks are private. Walmart also said no party would be liable to pay a termination fee if a share issuance or purchase agreement with Flipkart were terminated. The Economic Times newspaper reported on Friday, citing unnamed sources, that Japan's SoftBank Group,

which owns a roughly 20 percent stake in Flipkart, was rethinking its exit due to tax liabilities and because it saw further value in Flipkart.

SoftBank Chief Executive Masayoshi Son has said that their investment in Flipkart had grown to almost \$4 billion. That growth came just 9 months after SoftBank used its Vision Fund to invest about \$2.5 billion in Flipkart. A spokeswoman for SoftBank in India declined comment. Former Amazon employees Sachin and Binny Bansal founded Flipkart in 2007 and, just like Amazon, began by selling books. —Reuters

Health

# Madagascar fishermen plant mangroves for their future

## Shrinking the nursery grounds of crabs and shrimp

**BEANJAVILO:** Hunched over the soil, Malagasy villagers work feverishly-deft fingers planting stalks of mangrove to replace the swaths destroyed for firewood and building material. In just two decades, Madagascar lost about a fifth of its mangrove forest area, exposing its coastline to the ocean's ravages and shrinking the nursery grounds of crabs and shrimp—two key exports. With sea levels forecast to rise further due to global warming, coastal villagers are rushing to try and undo the damage, with the help of conservation group WWF.

"The ocean keeps rising and rising, and it takes everything with it," lamented 36-year-old crab fisherman Clement Joseph Rabenandrasana, who travelled several kilometers from his home in Beanjavilo to Amboanio on the island's west coast to volunteer in a two-day reforestation drive. Amboanio is a hamlet of about 50 people in the Melaky region, heavily dependent on aquaculture.

"The mangrove protects us," said Rabenandrasana, while conceding that: "I used to harvest mangrove for money" to augment a humble crabbing income which averages about 50-80 euros (\$60-96) a month. Rabenandrasana and others on the Indian Ocean island used to sell mangrove wood for construction beams, and used it themselves for cooking and heating, and to construct shelters. "We realized too late the importance of this ecosystem," said Eric Ramanitra of WWF, driving the project to sensitize locals to the mangrove's indispensable role.

### 'I didn't know'

Found in the world's tropical and subtropical regions in more than 120 countries, mangroves serve not only as fish nurseries, but also filter water and shield coastal areas from the force of waves whipped up by cyclones. "I didn't know that fish lay their eggs in the mangrove," said Samuel Razafimamonjy, 59, another volunteer.

Mangroves also absorb and store large amounts of carbon dioxide—one of the greenhouse gases driving planet warming. The WWF project helps people replant the mangrove forests and to take charge of managing and protecting the valuable resource in a country rife with political turmoil and corruption.

"Today, there are dedicated zones where the local community has to give consent for harvesting, and a limit is imposed on the size of plants" that can be taken, said Ramanitra. But the WWF also had to find ways to compensate for mangrove sales that locals such as Rabenandrasana willingly sacrificed. Rabenandrasana nets crabs from a small boat in canals among the mangroves near his home village. He has now learnt to take only those larger than 10 centimetres (four inches), and throw back juveniles and egg-carrying females so as to counter overfishing. Bigger crabs are sold for a better price, and Rabenandrasana has seen his take quadruple while helping preserve the crab stock for the future.

### Extreme climate

Research published in the journal Remote Sensing in 2016 said Madagascar hosts about two percent of the world's mangroves, with eight endemic species. Mangrove plants can range from small shrubs to tall trees tens of meters high. Satellite maps revealed that the island lost about 21 percent, or some 57,350 hectares (141,655 acres) of mangrove between 1990 and 2010, the study found.

What remains is threatened by sea level rise, and massive sand dumps from rivers upstream disrupting the fragile balance of fresh and salt water the ecosystem needs to flourish. With so much protection from the deeply-anchored mangrove roots lost already, river water lifts sand from the banks and transports it all the way to the ocean via the mangrove in a visible, red stream of silt.

There is reason for concern: Madagascar was already one of 15 countries in the world most affected by extreme climate events between 1997 and 2016, according to environmental watchdog Germanwatch. Globally, mangroves are estimated to be declining at a rate of about one- to two percent per year, said the 2016 study. The main causes are conversion of mangrove forests for purposes of agriculture or aquaculture, overextraction of wood, and upstream erosion. Natural phenomena such as tropical storms and rising ocean temperatures and sea levels also contributed, said the study, "the impacts of which are expected to continue to increase based on current climate change projections." —AFP



Clement Joseph Rabenandrasana, 36, catches crabs in the mangrove near the village of Beanjavilo, western Madagascar. —AFP

## Deadly frog fungus traced to Korea

**TAMPA:** Scientists have traced a deadly fungus responsible for killing frogs, toads and newts worldwide to the Korean peninsula, sparking new calls for a halt to the international amphibian pet trade. A dangerous infectious disease with the potential to drive species to extinction, *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* (Bd) is also known as chytrid fungus. The skin infection, passed from animals in the wild to pets, causes chytridiomycosis, which affects amphibians' ability to regulate water and electrolytes and may lead to heart failure.

"Biologists have known since the 1990s that Bd was behind the decline of many amphibian species, but until now we haven't been able to identify exactly where it came from," said Simon O'Hanlon, of the department of infectious disease epidemiology

at Imperial College London, co-author of the report in the journal Science. "In our paper, we solve this problem and show that the lineage which has caused such devastation can be traced back to East Asia."

An international team of scientists gathered samples of the pathogen from around the world, and sequenced the genomes. They found four main genetic lineages of the fungus—three of which are found around the world, and a fourth found only in native frogs in Korea. The genetic analysis showed that "the range of the disease expanded greatly between 50 and 120 years ago, coinciding with the rapid global expansion of inter-continental trade," said the report.

The findings offer "strong evidence for a ban on trade in amphibians from Asia, due to the high risk associated with exporting previously unknown strains of chytrid out of this region," it added. Another pathogen affecting salamanders in Europe — (*B. salamandrorans* or BSal) — also emerged from Asia and is spreading via the global trade in pet amphibians. —AFP

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## Global Medical Center Welcomes Dr. Marzouq Al-Bader

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## What's On



# Lebanese restaurant Al-Sultan Brahim holds a special pre-Ramadan dinner

By Nawara Fattahova

**KUWAIT:** The popular Lebanese restaurant Al-Sultan Brahim held a Greesh dinner recently for the media to welcome the holy month of Ramadan. During this event, the restaurant launched their new special menu for Ramadan including both iftar and Suhour. The new menu consists of popular Lebanese dishes for both friends and families, which makes the Al-Sultan Brahim the perfect place for gathering during Ramadan.

Al-Sultan Brahim was first launched in Kuwait in 2017 at the Sea View Complex in Mangaf. After their great success, they decided to open a second branch in Salmiya, to ensure that the journey of excellence that started in Lebanon in 1961 continues. The restaurant made a positive difference in taste through a change in appetizers, seafood dishes, and the grill dishes that are served in unique and luxurious ways.

The visitor experience starts at the entrance of Al-Sultan Brahim, where the

professional staff welcomes them and takes them on a virtual tour inside the restaurant. The decors of the restaurant provide clients with comfort while enjoying their meals in a cozy atmosphere.

During the holy month of Ramadan, Al-Sultan Brahim is serving special appetizers and main dishes, which are prepared specially to meet the standards of all tastes. The Iftar menu includes a rich selection of cold appetizers including fatoush, homos, mutabal, vine leaves, and hindaba, followed by warm appetizers including soups, fried

kubba, cheese spring roles, and much more.

The main courses vary with a wide selection of meat and sea-foods including Shawerma, sayadiya, spicy fish, stuffed lamb, and others. The menu concludes with a massive variety of Lebanese sweets that perfectly match the holy month of Ramadan including mamoul, dates, and layaly Al diwan. During the holy month of Ramadan, Al-Sultan Brahim preserves Kuwaiti traditions with special oud (lute) musical nights. This provides a unique Iftar and Suhour experience that is sure to bring joy for both

the mind and body.

Al-Sultan Brahim is proudly ranked among the five star restaurants starting from Lebanon and now today in Kuwait. The luxury standard of services presented by the restaurant has paved the way to various prizes including the 'Best Restaurant in the Arab World' from the Arab Countries Committee in 2016. Al-Sultan Brahim wishes all the people of Kuwait a very happy Ramadan and promises to serve a unique Iftar experience and traditional Ramadan evenings.



## The Palms Beach Hotel & Spa prepared to resume one & only Ramadan Special Nights



With Ramadan countdown, and as the palms Beach Hotel & Spa used to pledge presenting the latest and special services, the full setup and preparation for welcoming and receiving the holy month of Ramadan is totally completed...As it overlook with its oriental virtuous shining bright at the unique heritage Ramadan tent that takes place at hotel beach side, where you can enjoy with the traditional & oriental live musical band while smoking the traditional shisha, that reflect the spirit and atmosphere of Ramadan nights to differentiate our special buffets of iftar, ghabka & Suhour for individuals & groups.

On the other hand, our experienced chefs ensured complete the final touch on Ramadan Bazar Tent, which includes live cook stations for iftar, ghabka & Suhour, the appetizers, main dishes, desserts and Ramadan special traditional beverages additional to the outside catering, that all ensured the wide variety of rich dishes to guarantee satisfying a wide range of our guests.



## Bhavan's SIS invests power at Investiture ceremony

The scarlet day in the chronicle of 2018-2019 academia had its bureaucratic significance in investing powers and authority to the Student Council and prefectorial body in the Investiture Ceremony at Smart Indian School on 6th May 2018. The time felt right to invest the abstract justice to the tangible members with the authority to shoulder up responsibility, leadership and initiation.

The wealthy conferral proceedings started off with the conventional pattern of Kuwait National Anthem, recital from Holy Quran, School Prayer and SIS Anthem. The former Student Council with the courageous and satisfying marching handed over their flags that signified commitment, dedication and fulfillment, to the new council members who held it



high with the novel experience of exposure, enlightenment and empowerment.

The stepping students with new roles had inscribed a new sense of pride and duty within them. They were the subject of a hundred applause around them with a focus to take up the new scenario of executing powers and bringing change around them. It was followed by the award ceremony where the cheerful parents witnessed their wards getting applauded under three significant categories of achievements - Proficiency, National Math Olympiad and Maths Wizard.

The chief guest uttered the words of wisdom to the newly elects and encouraged to carry on the task with no hesitation. The ceremony came to a halt with the singing of the cancer survivor and a massive contributor to many struggling patients of the same disease, Ms. Priya Achu along with the school Principal, Mr Mahesh Iyer to spread the feel of joy and admiration for the elects. The benevolent sponsor stretched a financial aid to the charitable foundation and thereby proving that SIS stands not only as a haven for education but a creator of philanthropists too.

## LuLu Hypermarket revamps online service

LuLu Hypermarket, the largest retailer in the region and a pioneer in setting retail benchmarks, has revamped its online home delivery service and redesigned its mobile app to make it even more easy and convenient to shop the hypermarket's e-commerce website at LuluWebstore.com

The one-stop online store has widened its delivery network and now offers delivery service all over for a nominal charge. The home-delivery service, which is available for every purchase above KD10, promises to execute same-day delivery for orders placed before 12pm. In addition, to ensure that grocery and other purchases are delivered fresh to your doorstep, the Webstore has special delivery vans with multiple compartments, each equipped with individual temperature controls.

Meanwhile, the redesigned mobile app, now available on Google's Playstore and Apple's Appstore, makes ordering online a hassle-free experience. The easily downloadable app allows shoppers to save their shopping cart for next purchase; save their favorite items to a wishlist and have it included in every shopping; and learn about the latest offers through immediate notifications.

The app and home-delivery services have been designed to benefit time-

strapped shoppers looking for an easier and better way to do their grocery and other shopping, with the added convenience of having it delivered right to their doorstep

LuLu Webstore has been designed to offer products from the hypermarket's various departments in an easy-to-browse format that categorizes products under different labels such as Grocery, Electronics, Home and Living, and Fashion. Online shoppers now have ready access to the thousands of products offered by the hypermarket's brick-store, they can compare prices and read reviews and product information, as well as share news about promotions, special deals and offers with friends, all from the comfort of their home.

LuLu Hypermarket's e-commerce site also prides itself on its highly secure payment gateway that ensures the safety and security of financial transactions made through the website. The Webstore's hassle-free 'Returns Policy' and the fact that shoppers can check the status of their orders at any time, makes shopping at LuLu Webstore a tension-free online shopping experience. One can enjoy all these amazing online features and experience personalized shopping at its best by visiting [www.luluwebstore.com](http://www.luluwebstore.com).

## Oncost Cash & Carry launches Hawally Mega Draw

Oncost Cash & Carry, the first wholesale membership retail store in Kuwait, where members are offered products at wholesale prices in a retail environment, launched its second 'Mega Draw' promotion, this time for its Hawally store on Thursday, 10th of May.

The promotion is limited exclusively to the Oncost Hawally store and is going to run from May 10th, 2018 to June 23rd, 2018. During the promotion, customers will receive one coupon for every KD 5,000 purchase, which will enter them into the mega draw. The winners of this

"Mega Draw" will receive a host of fantastic prizes. The first prize of the Mega Draw is a brand new 2018 KIA Rio. The second prize is the latest Apple iPhone X, while the third, fourth and fifth prizes are gift vouchers worth KD100, KD75 and KD50, respectively.

ONCOST offers customers the benefits of wholesale shopping in a modern retail environment that prioritizes convenience and top-notch services, while ensuring significantly discounted prices to its customers. Oncost Cash & Carry has been revolutionizing shopping in Kuwait ever since its inception in 2011. Oncost's pricing policy has been constructed to focus on competitive pricing by the unit and wholesale prices by the pack or carton, to pass on substantial savings to its loyal customer base. Moreover, there are the added benefits of weekly promotions that see customers shopping for household staples with great savings.



TV



00:05 Colossal
02:00 Now You See Me 2
04:15 Invasion Day
06:00 The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part II



00:45 Rugged Justice
01:40 Rugged Justice
02:35 Rugged Justice
03:25 Rugged Justice
04:15 Rugged Justice



00:00 Ashes To Ashes
00:55 Unforgotten
01:50 Line Of Duty
02:55 The Level
03:45 The Level



00:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos
01:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos
01:55 Robbie Coltrane's Critical Evidence



00:05 Important Things With Demitri Martin
00:30 Friends
00:55 The Daily Show - Global Edition

16:55 Friends
17:20 Friends
17:45 Snack Off
18:10 Snack Off



00:30 Ultimate Survival
01:20 How It's Made
01:45 How It's Made
02:10 How It's Made



00:45 Dead Silent
01:40 Hear No Evil
02:35 Ghost Brothers
03:30 Ghost Stalkers



00:00 Hank Zipzer
00:25 Alex & Co.
00:45 Disney Mickey Mouse
00:50 Evermoor Chronicles

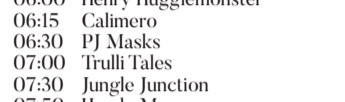


00:05 Friends
00:30 Friends
00:55 The Daily Show - Global Edition

20:45 BizarroDvark
21:10 Hotel Transylvania: The Series
21:35 Stuck In The Middle



00:00 Trulli Tales
00:30 PJ Masks
00:55 Trulli Tales
01:20 Henry Hugglemonster



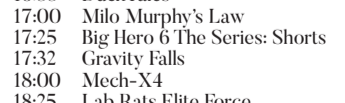
00:10 Broadchurch
01:00 Emmerdale
01:30 Emmerdale
02:00 Coronation Street



00:15 Deadliest Catch
01:05 Blue Collar Backers
01:50 Pacific Warriors
02:35 Outback Truckers



06:00 Marvel's Spider-Man
06:25 Lab Rats
06:50 Phineas & Ferb
07:05 DuckTales



00:45 Maximum Foodie
01:10 Posh & Co.
01:40 A Taste Of South Africa
02:05 A Taste Of South Africa



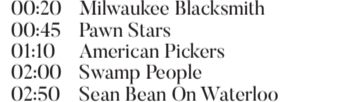
00:00 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian
00:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
01:50 El News



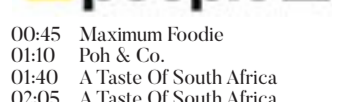
00:10 Broadchurch
01:00 Emmerdale
01:30 Emmerdale
02:00 Coronation Street



00:00 Ancient Aliens: The Ultimate Evidence
01:00 Ancient Aliens: The Ultimate Evidence
02:00 UFO Files



00:20 Milwaukee Blacksmith
00:45 Pawn Stars
01:10 American Pickers
02:00 Swamp People



00:45 Maximum Foodie
01:10 Posh & Co.
01:40 A Taste Of South Africa

07:35 A Taste Of South Africa
08:05 Cruise Ship Diaries
09:00 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces

00:55 What's For Sale?
10:20 What's For Sale?
10:50 Miguel's Feasts
11:15 Miguel's Feasts



00:10 Wicked Tuna
01:00 Genius
02:00 Diana: In Her Own Words
04:00 Wicked Tuna



00:20 Born Wild
01:00 Dr. K's Exotic Animal ER
02:00 Incredible Fangs
02:50 Animal Fight Club



00:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
00:36 Rabbids Invasion
01:00 Rabbids Invasion
01:24 Sanjay And Craig



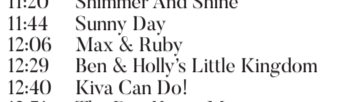
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00:36 Rabbids Invasion
01:00 Rabbids Invasion
01:24 Sanjay And Craig



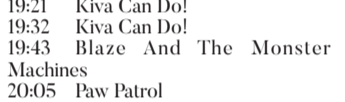
00:06 Max & Ruby
00:28 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
00:39 Kiva Can Do!

01:58 Kid-E-Cats
02:04 Shimmer And Shine
02:26 Nella The Princess Knight

03:02 Max & Ruby
03:24 Dora The Explorer
03:47 Sunny Day
04:10 Nella The Princess Knight



00:10 Wicked Tuna
01:00 Genius
02:00 Diana: In Her Own Words
04:00 Wicked Tuna



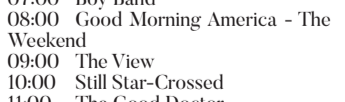
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01:00 Dr. K's Exotic Animal ER
02:00 Incredible Fangs
02:50 Animal Fight Club



00:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
00:36 Rabbids Invasion
01:00 Rabbids Invasion
01:24 Sanjay And Craig



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00:36 Rabbids Invasion
01:00 Rabbids Invasion
01:24 Sanjay And Craig



00:06 Max & Ruby
00:28 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
00:39 Kiva Can Do!

21:00 Falling Water
22:00 The Resident
23:00 Beyond



01:00 Overboard
03:00 Hearts Of Spring
04:30 The Lookout



00:40 Far From Men
02:30 Django
04:30 Tumbledown



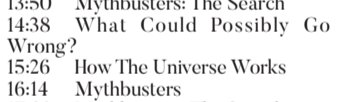
01:00 Louis & Luca And The Snow Machine
02:25 Krazy Planet
03:50 Operation Arctic



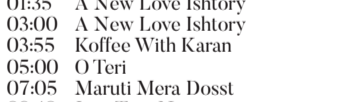
01:25 The Fountain
03:05 Groundhog Day
04:50 Dirty Dancing



00:30 Secrets Of The Underground
01:20 Mythbusters: The Search
02:10 How The Universe Works



01:35 A New Love Ishtory
03:00 A New Love Ishtory
03:55 Koffee With Karan



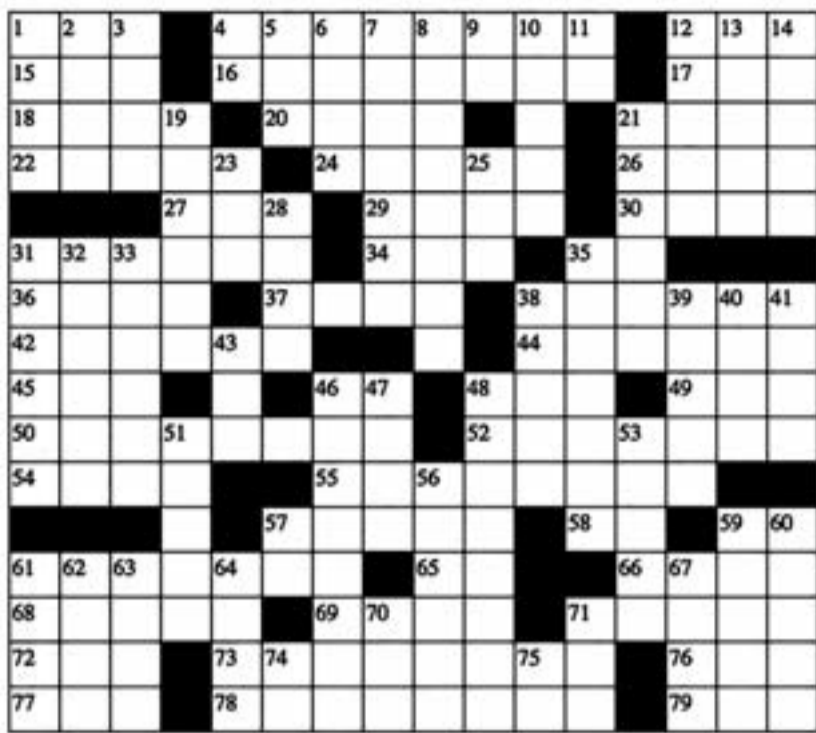
01:00 The Imitation Game
03:00 Face The Music
04:30 The Wedding Planner



00:00 Wedding Band
01:00 Wedding Band
02:00 Project Accessory

Stars

CROSSWORD 1908



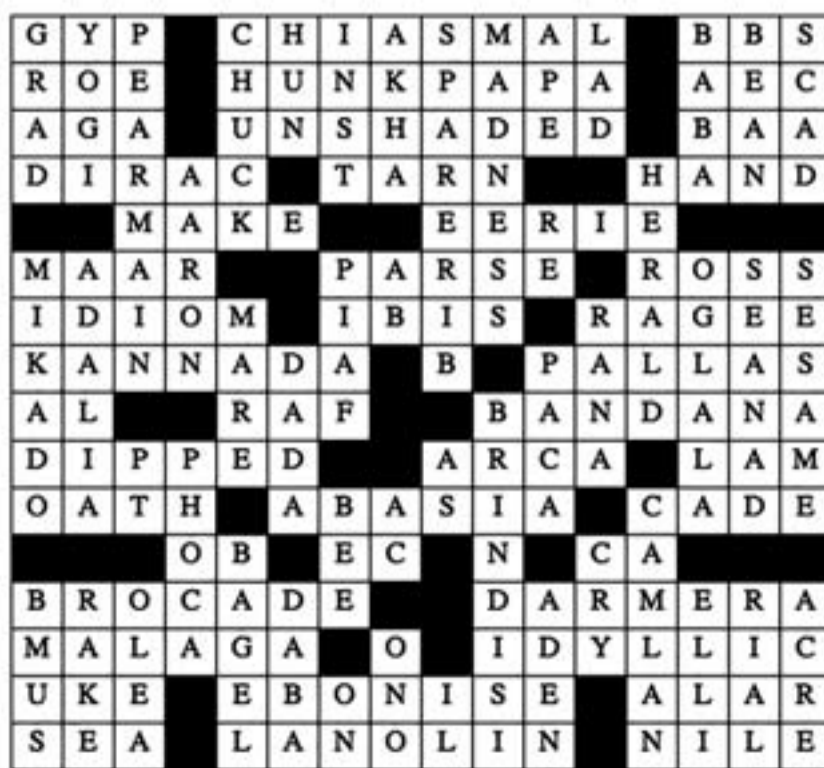
ACROSS

- 1. (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.
4. A climber of vertical rock faces.
12. An orange-brown antelope of south-east Africa.
15. Light informal conversation for social occasions.
16. Hard outer covering or case of certain organisms such as arthropods and turtles.
17. A member of the Siouan people living in the Yazoo river valley in Mississippi.
18. An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
20. Offering fun and gaiety.
22. A mountain peak in the Andes in Argentina (21,654 feet high).
24. The absolute unit of pressure equal to one dyne per square centimeter.
26. By bad luck.
27. (Scotland) A small loaf or roll of soft bread.
29. Paying particular notice (as to children or helpless people).
30. Containing or filled with salt.
31. West Indian tree having racemes of fragrant white flowers and yielding a durable timber and resinous juice.
34. A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Telescopium and Norma.
36. Heal or recover.
37. The basic unit of money in Ghana.
42. Large herbivorous tropical American arboreal lizards with a spiny crest along the back.
44. Grammatical number category referring to two or more items or units.
45. Estrangement from god.
49. An inflated feeling of pride in your superiority to others.
50. The activity of converting from plain text into code.
52. Enthusiastic approval.
54. A Loloish language.
55. Any freshwater fish of the family Characidae.
58. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
61. The face veil worn by Muslim women.
65. North American republic containing 50 states - 48 conterminous states in North America plus Alaska in north-west North America and the Hawaiian Islands in the Pacific Ocean.
66. A Hindu prince or king in India.
68. A republic on the island of Malta in the Mediterranean.
69. A Tibetan or Mongolian priest of Lamaism.
72. A self-funded retirement plan that allows you to contribute a limited yearly sum toward your retirement.
73. A soft gray mineral.
76. A cgs unit of work or energy.
77. (informal) 'johnny' was applied as a nickname for Confederate soldiers by the Federal soldiers in the American Civil War.
78. A language spoken by a Malaysian people on Formosa.
79. A sweetened beverage of diluted fruit juice.

DOWN

- 1. Highly excited.
2. Plant with an elongated head of broad stalked leaves resembling celery.
3. Norwegian mathematician (1802-1829).
4. Being ten more than one hundred ninety.
5. A small piece of cloth.
6. An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
7. (Arthurian legend) The most virtuous knight of the Round Table.
8. A cut of pork ribs with much of the meat trimmed off.
9. Informal terms for a mother.
10. (Of complexion) Blemished by imperfections of the skin.
11. A colorless odorless gaseous element that give a red glow in a vacuum tube.
12. Sluggish tailless Australian arboreal marsupial with gray furry ears and coat.
13. Viscera and trimmings of a butchered animal often considered inedible by humans.
14. Speaking of yourself in superlatives.
19. An esoteric or occult matter that is traditionally secret.
21. The capital of Lesotho.
23. Tag the base runner to get him out.
25. An affirmative.
28. Large burrowing rodent of South and Central America.
32. An island in the Aegean Sea in the Saronic Gulf.
33. A motorboat with an open deck or a half deck.
35. Stem of the rattan palm used for making canes and umbrella handles.
38. The brightest star in Virgo.
39. (Greek mythology) One of the mountain nymphs.
40. Medium-sized tree having glossy lanceolate leaves.
41. Take by theft.
43. A sign of assent or salutation or command.
46. Large genus of epiphytic and lithophytic orchids of tropical and subtropical Americas and West Indies.
47. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
48. Parachute that will lift a person up into the air when it is towed by a motorboat or a car.
51. Expresses an emotional, practical, or other reason for doing something.
53. A small faint zodiacal constellation in the southern hemisphere.
56. A person who has received a degree from a school (high school or college or university).
57. A silvery soft waxy metallic element of the alkali metal group.
59. A long narrow inlet of the sea between steep cliffs.
60. United States photographer remembered for her portraits of rural workers during the Depression (1895-1965).
62. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
63. Block consisting of a thick piece of something.
64. An independent group of closely related Chadic languages spoken in the area between the Biu-Mandara and East Chadic languages.
67. A particular geographical region of indefinite boundary (usually serving some special purpose or distinguished by its people or culture or geography).
70. Make amends for.
71. A former agency (from 1946 to 1974) that was responsible for research into atomic energy and its peacetime uses in the United States.
74. (astronomy) A measure of time defined by Earth's orbital motion.
75. A light strong gray lustrous corrosion-resistant metallic element used in strong light-weight alloys (as for airplane parts).

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You have found yourself in the best work day you have had in a long time. Ambitions run high right now and you could come across an opportunity to further your position or get a new one! Communicating with the boss or superiors comes easily when you discuss something sensitive; this clears the air for everyone to move forward with something important. Strong work related energy is likely. You might say or do the wrong thing and make things worse; your intentions are pure, no harm intended! You could want to keep to yourself, but you just can't today. Tending to work brings pretty good outcomes. Intuition tells you to stay out of something, and you listen. Having something your way seems most important right now; hold on and don't panic if it doesn't go your way! You enjoy your own company a bit later.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You could find yourself in an unfortunate position to spend, spend, spend when you shouldn't! You could test your boundaries to see just how far you can go without getting into trouble. You seem more than capable of doing whatever it takes to succeed. You could get your temper up over nothing and later regret it; this is likely a result of a misunderstanding. You seem to actually soak up the beauty in a certain environment you find yourself in later today. Being with someone you love makes this a perfect day. You hold special affection for those you share time with just now; you're extremely grateful for all that you have been blessed with. Your pure loyalty is apparent when you come to a friend's rescue. You're seen as charming and attractive to be with.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Your security could be challenged by someone in authority; this causes extreme upset as your home and family are at the very top of your priority list. You feel secure and fortunate in the life you have created for yourself. There just may be a change in your work place arrangements that could be troubling; keep in mind that this will likely turn out to be the very best thing that could ever happen! Someone admires your strong work ethic and productivity. You may find yourself in a position to refuse something offered; self-reliance is strongly forecast for some time to come. Teamwork is called for later and you find yourself in a position to follow, not lead; you like having the opportunity to work without added pressure.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You are facing a choice regarding an important move in your life; emotional ties could strongly influence this! You feel a strong energy of change and encouragement in your decisions at this time. A demanding person causes and uncomfortable environment by insisting you do something their way; you may show them a side of you they don't like. You readily accept a challenge you know you can surmount. Someone has a close eye on the example you set. Your positive influence is felt by those you work with; a major project benefits from your insight and open mind. You prove yourself when you help someone avert a bad situation. Taking on a new project isn't something you want to do, but this could push you in the right direction.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You value your belongings, your family, your life in general; material gain is strongly indicated during the new phase you have entered. A spirit of acquisition is prominent according to the stars as you plan for your future. You get a bad vibe regarding someone you're around; pay attention to what intuition says regarding this person. It takes a bit of true effort, but you can avoid an ugly confrontation if you choose to. Taboos and secrets appeal to you and some type of involvement is forecast; we all enjoy our private pleasures, don't put yourself down for enjoying yours. Starting over with someone you have offended, or someone who's offended you, goes smoothly. You love being the center of attention and absorb words of praise like a sponge. You enjoy the perfect end to a very good, productive day.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Welcome to a new day that finds you invigorated and motivated! New career directions are strongly possible; it's the decisions that might give you difficulty. A project requiring practical approaches have your name on them! You know what you want to do, now you just have to figure out how to do it, and you will. You appear to be in control of any situation you may find yourself in. You're not in the mood for chasing solutions for an issue that doesn't have much to offer; you're more interested in working with things that make a positive difference. Temptation strikes when you happen upon someone you have not seen in a while! Do your best! You well know that you can do anything you truly want to do. You're moving farther away from your old way of life and into a much brighter place.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You're in for being appreciated at work or home, either way, your ego's in for a lift today! A break in routine is strongly indicated when you receive a welcome invitation from a friend. You return the affection of someone you used to know. Your sense of equality and fairness could get in your way. You could be sexually active during this phase, especially now. You take a wrong turn and become lost when you're unexpected at a certain gathering; you're late, but you do manage to get there! Someone surprises you with some surprising news that could rattle you; this isn't necessarily a negative thing but it does cause drastic change. You start from the very beginning when a new project unfolds; no obstructions or slowdowns are forecast. Reading or watching a movie takes you away from the grindstone.



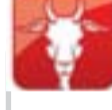
Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Looking inside you try to figure out why you feel a certain way about a certain person; you could seriously consider marriage or another important partnership. Some interesting gossip comes to you regarding someone from your past; you wish this person the very best now. Keeping your thoughts to yourself seems likely today and this is for the very best. You want nothing to do with someone who insists on being unrealistic when dealing with an important project. You encounter a person that always brings your spirits up and encourages your efforts. You enjoy taking a walk on what some may consider the dark side; something uncommon is strongly indicated here; hold your head up as you follow your intentions to the end. Beginning at the beginning is something you look forward to at this time.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Luck is with you when someone else handles a sticky business situation as your thoughts aren't clear. You get to the bottom of a certain situation that's keeping you up at night! You manage to land on your feet when you make an unfortunate decision; you have a protective energy surrounds you now according to the heavens. Money means power when a wealthy person offers to pay high-dollar for an item or piece of property you possess. You have a grateful heart. Your love for, and understanding of, others are endearing qualities; you're well admired! You reach a conclusion regarding sharing some good news with someone special. Your secrets are happy ones you don't mind sharing right now! You influence several when you reveal how some things work for a group of interested people.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Joining with others to make a difference is strongly indicated in the heavens. Your relationships for deeper bonds and growth stronger in meaning. Friends are family, family are friends! You pay attention to a compulsion driving you to discover more about a recent new acquaintance. Your mental state's sharp; problem solving comes easily; you could join a group that promotes beliefs you feel very strongly about and follow; working with others works! You're challenged in one area of life you strive to improve on with considerable success. If you're frustrated and you're very well could be! You should take into consideration that this is very temporary. Spending time outside creates the atmosphere you need to freshen your body, mind and spirit.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

Your day's spent doing chores you have put off. Tasks are done with ease and with little effort. The parts of your life you truly love are never far from your thoughts and this is very timely just now; home needs you as much as you need home! You have a distinct wish to be highly regarded by a particular person; this is a definite bone of contention you're beginning to let go of. You can't seem to get your words out correctly; take a moment! You have entered a phase that ushers in a strong desire to broaden your goals and shoot for the stars come to the fore. You just happen to be at your most effective when negotiating and collaborating with others. You're very clear on which path to take and plan to take things one step at a time; no acting needy or collapsing into courses of action that might fail you.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Your independence is dominant as you lack a project on your own. Your desire to fit in and be accepted is highlighted. You adore animals, and may find yourself helping with one in some way that doesn't belong to you. You could be misty eyed today as you reflect on your life and loves. This is a day filled with loved ones that share information that's been passed down. Learning more about your ancestors could interest you now. Your head could be in the clouds for much of the day and as a result you could realize something very helpful. Positive energy is a strong component of your month with the exception of some slices of negative influence. You relate to someone who's your senior and shares the same opinions and attitudes; working together you find new ways to invest in a new field.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Movie Actors 3

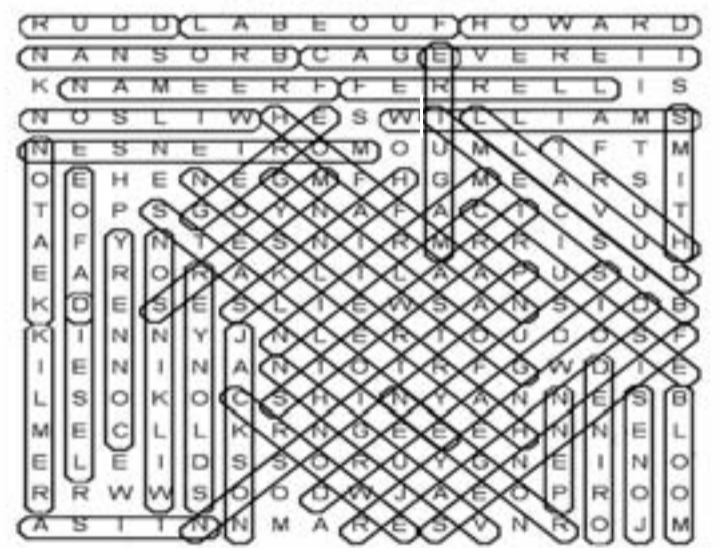
Find and circle all of the Movie Actors that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell the name of a movie for which Forest Whitaker won an Oscar.



- ARKIN, Alan
SALE, Christian
BANDERAS, Antonio
BRODERICK, Jim
BRODIE, Adrian
BYRNE, Gabriel
CRAIG, Daniel
DAY-LEWIS, Daniel
EASTWOOD, Clint
FIRTH, Colin
FISHER, Laurence
FRASER, Brendan
GLOVER, Danny
GOODING JR, Cuba
HARRIS, Ed
HAWKE, Ethan
KINGSLY, Ben
MACY, William H.
MALKOVICH, John
MCGREGOR, Ewan
MURPHY, Eddie
MURRAY, Bill
NICHOLSON, Jack
NORTON, Edward
OLDMAN, Gary
PACINO, Al
PAXTON, Bill
PITT, Brad
QUAID, Dennis
RADCLIFFE, Daniel
SINISE, Gary
SLATER, Christian
STRATHAIRN, David
THORNTON, Billy Bob
WALKER, Christopher
WASHINGTON, Denzel
WHITAKER, Forest
WILLIS, Bruce

Yesterday's Solution

Movie Actors 2



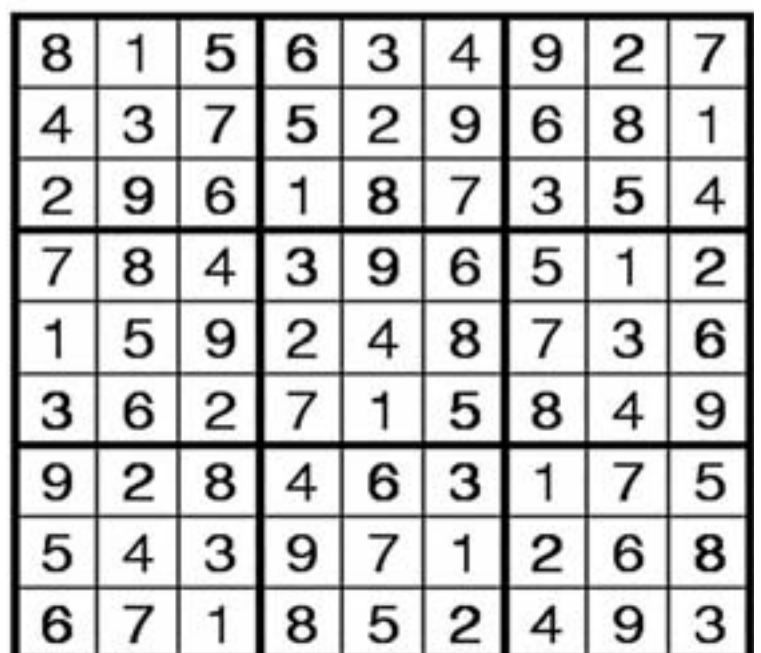
- ASTIN, Sean
BLOOM, Orlando
BROSNAN, Pierce
BUSCEMI, Steve
CAGE, Nicolas
CONNERY, Sean
CROWE, Russell
CRUISE, Tom
DAFOE, William
DE NIRO, Robert
DEISEL, Vin
DOWNEY JR, Robert
DREYFUSS, Richard
DUVALL, Robert
EVERETT, Rupert
FERRELL, Will
FIENNES, Ralph
FREEMAN, Morgan
GERE, Richard
GOSLING, Ryan
HANKS, Tom
HARRELSON, Woody
HOFFMAN, Philip Seymour
HOWARD, Terrence
HURT, William
JACKSON, Samuel L.
JONES, Tommy Lee
KEATON, Michael
KILMER, Val
LABEOUF, Shia
MAGUIRE, Tobey
MARTIN, Steve
MORTENSEN, Viggo
MYERS, Mike
PATTINSON, Robert
PENN, Sean
REYNOLDS, Ryan
ROGGE, Seth
RUDD, Paul
SMITH, Will
STALLONE, Sylvester
STEWART, Patrick
VALJEAN, Vince
WILKINSON, Tom
WILLIAMS, Robin
WILSON, Owen

The hidden movie title is: KISS OF THE SPIDER WOMAN

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution





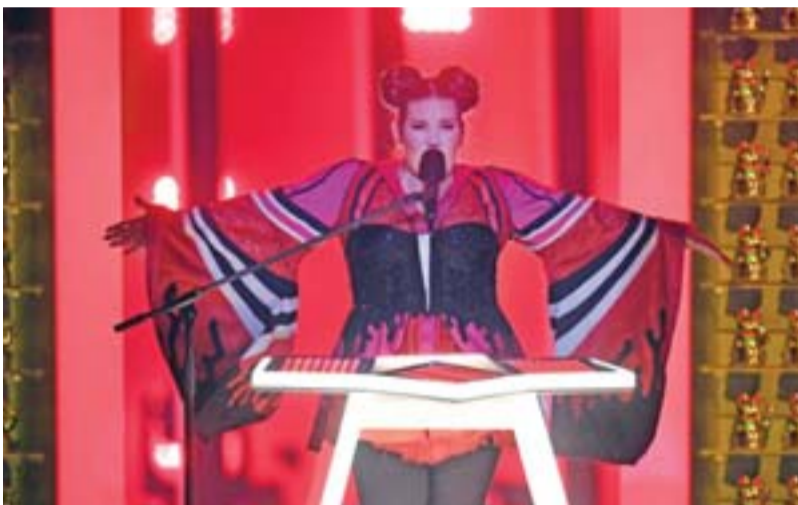


Netta Barzilai aka Netta performs with the trophy after winning the final of the 63rd edition of the Eurovision Song Contest 2018 at the Altice Arena in Lisbon. — AFP photos



Finland's singer Saara Aalto performs "Monsters".

# BARZILAI WINS EUROVISION WITH #METOO INSPIRED SONG



Netta Barzilai aka Netta performs 'Toy' during the final of the 63rd edition of the Eurovision Song Contest.



Eurovision 2017 winner Portugal's singer Salvador Sobral handles the trophy to singer Netta Barzilai aka Netta (right) after she won the final of the Eurovision Song Contest 2018.



Eurovision winner of 2017 Portugal's singer Salvador Sobral (left) and Brazilian singer Caetano Veloso perform on stage.

Israel won the Eurovision Song Contest in Lisbon yesterday after singer Netta Barzilai beat 25 other contestants with her uptempo song "Toy" whose lyrics were inspired by the #MeToo movement. The winning track, which contained refrains such as "I am not your toy, you stupid boy", summed up the concerns of many women who have adopted the growing global movement against sexual harassment. The 25-year-old, who wore a multicolored kimono, accompanied her winning performance with trills, clucking sounds and chicken-like dance moves in an eye-catching and bizarre performance that is often typical of the Eurovision contest.

"I am so happy. Thank you so much. Thank you for supporting diversity," she as she took the stage to perform her song again after her win was announced. "People chose different, people chose refreshing." Barzilai secured 529 points, beating stiff competition from Cyprus' Eleni Foureira and her fiery song "Fuego" which got 436 points. She received the Eurovision trophy from the last year's winner, Portugal's Salvador Sobral, who had called her song "horrible" in an interview published in Portuguese daily *Publico* on Wednesday. "I felt he respected me and I send only love to him," Barzilai said when asked at a press conference what it was like to receive the award from Sobral. Shortly after her victory Barzilai managed to break the glass trophy she had been awarded—but organisers gave her a replacement at the post-concert press conference.

**Stage invasion**

The annual musical extravaganza has long been known for its ludicrous costumes, glitz



Hungary's band AWS perform 'Viszlat nyar'.

and high-tech stage effects. Highlights from this year's contest which was hosted by Portugal for the first time included a staircase that was set ablaze and a giant projection dress that came to life with colorful animations. British singer SuRie's performance was interrupted by a man who jumped on stage and snatched her microphone as she performed her entry "Storm". She calmly turned to one side and clapped while the man was escorted away before quickly resuming singing after being handed another

microphone. The man is in police custody, the European Broadcast Union, which stages Eurovision, said in a statement. SuRie and her team were offered the chance to sing again but opted not to because they were "extremely proud" of her performance, it added. She finished in 24th place.

Israel has won the contest in 1978, 1979 and 1998. Ariel Lopstein, a Jewish Puerto Rican who lives in Madrid who was at the final, said Barzilai's victory was a way of celebrating the

water of the building's esplanade. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu congratulated Barzilai by telephone, telling her she was "the best ambassador of Israel. We love you." Israel will now host the contest next year.

Eurovision was first held in 1956 with the aim of uniting Europe after World War II. Today it has an estimated global audience of around 200 million people—more than the Super Bowl in the United States—and has served as a global launching pad for the likes of ABBA and Celine Dion. "It's just harmless fun, it is just a really good atmosphere," said Lee Torrance, a 43-year-old from Worcestershire in the United Kingdom who wore a vest and bowtie with the Union Jack pattern to the final.

**China ban**

Although the contest is supposed to be nonpolitical, this year's Eurovision, like many others before it, was no stranger to controversy. The European Broadcast Union barred China's Mango TV from airing Saturday's final after it edited out a romantic dance sequence by two men from Ireland's entry during the contest's first semi-final. Mango TV also blurred out rainbow flags in the audience. After two semi-finals held this week, 20 countries moved to Saturday's final while Britain, Italy, Spain, France and Germany got free passes as they are the biggest contributors to the European Broadcasting Union. Portugal automatically qualified because it was the host. Barzilai said she would celebrate her win with her fans who had come to Lisbon from Israel to support her at the contest. "There is nothing like an Israeli party. You will find out next year," she added. — AFP

**'Best ambassador'**

Barzilai's victory sparked celebration in Israel, which has won the contest three other times, in 1978, 1979 and 1998. Hundreds of fans danced in front of Tel Aviv's city hall. Some threw themselves fully clothes into the shallow



The Netherlands' singer Willem Bijker aka Waylon Outlaw performs "Outlaw In 'Em".



Estonia's soprano singer Elina Nechayeva performs "La Forza".



Ukraine's singer and composer Kostyantyn Mykolayovych Bocharov aka MELOVIN performs "Under the ladder".



Moldova's trio band composed by Marina Djundiet, Eugeniu Andrianov, and Sergiu Mi'a, DoReDoS perform "My lucky day".



Bulgarian group EQUINOX's singer Zhana Bergendorff performs with the band "Bones".

Lifestyle | Gossip



## Faith found love for the first time in her 30s

**P**aloma Faith found her first true love in her 30s. The 36-year-old singer is currently in a relationship with French artist Leyman Lahcine, but Paloma has admitted it's taken her a long time to discover true romance. She confessed: "I have been with my boyfriend and father of our child for three years. It's the first time I've ever been in an equal and loving relationship that is founded on mutual respect." Paloma was briefly married to New Zealand chef Rian Haynes in 2005 - but the couple split after eight months and then divorced four years later. On reflection, Paloma admits she made a mistake in marrying Rian, conceding she took the decision for the wrong reasons. She told *The Age* newspaper in Australia: "I married my New Zealand boyfriend Rian Haynes in 2005 so he wouldn't get deported [from the UK]. It was a combination of being young and impulsive. I was silly and in a blind rush and immediately regretted it. "I didn't want to be with him forever but I didn't want to break up just at that point, either." The musician claimed she started dating guys like Rian because of bad experiences she'd been through during her teenage years. She explained: "In my late teen years, I had a very horrible relationship with a guy which ended in violence and harassment. I had to get an injunction and victim support counseling. I'm sad that this is the sort of guy I went for. "I transitioned into the polar opposite where I dated men who were my equal and adored me, but I didn't feel the same way about them. It wasn't fair on them."

## Tiesto doesn't think streaming has been good for industry



**T**iesto doesn't think streaming has been "good" for music. The Dutch DJ believes the popularity of services such as Spotify and Apple Music have "completely" changed the music industry and though it has benefits for users, he's not sure it's right in the long term. Asked how streaming services have changed the music industry, he exclusively told *BANG Showbiz*: "It changed the music industry completely because it's not just the way you listen to music, but the way you perceive music. You don't really own the music anymore, you just stream it. "It's all available to you; you used to have to go to a certain place to hear a certain track but everything is always available 24/7 now. That's not always a good thing." And the 49-year-old star even thinks streaming has impacted on festival performances. He said: "There's been a lot of changes. Everything has changed since the first time I played. When I first played at Creamfields, my set was 11 minutes long but I don't think people play 11 minutes nowadays. There was no Spotify; you had to be at the festival to hear the track. Believe me, everything has changed." The 49-year-old star still loves performing at festivals and wants his sets to be a "party" for himself and the audience. He said: "Right before my set, I just relax in my dressing room and just listen to the DJ or the bands who are on before me, see what they're up to and just check out some more of the festival. "I just hang out backstage, have a couple of drinks and get into the mood to party because my sets are always a party and that's what I want people to take away from it - to have a great time and a great party. That's how I feel after the show." Tiesto will be headlining the Steel Yard Weekender on Sunday 27th May at Finsbury Park for an exclusive London performance and back to close out the Arc Stage at Creamfields on Sunday 26th August.

## Grohl's lengthy instrumental solo song

**D**ave Grohl is planning to record a 25-minute song. The Foo Fighters frontman insists his next project isn't a "solo record", but he'll be doing all the writing and recording for the lengthy instrumental himself. He said: "I have a studio, EastWest in L.A. where I'm going to set up an expanse of instruments. "Several drum kits, a load of guitars, bass, rhythm and lead. "I'll hit play and the clock will start ticking. I will record the first drum part, then I will run to the next drum set and play another drum part that will record over the first. "Then I will do the same with all the guitars, all assigned to a different moment in the instrumental... "The best part is we'll film everything with multiple cameras so by the end of it you will see and hear one song being played for 25 minutes, with six different Dave Grohls playing every note, on every single instrument, all the way through in one take." But the 49-year-old rocker admits it will take a lot of preparation. He said: "The worst part is, and that's why I've had about four hours sleep every night



on this tour, I have to write and then memorize all the music for this thing, for all the instruments, before I get back to L.A. in two weeks." The 'My Hero' hit-maker is undertaking the project "just because [he] can" because his success means he's in a position where he doesn't have to worry about other people's opinions. He said: "No one thought Nirvana would be a big deal... So when everything went crazy, when the world started coming to us, when that whole wild ride started happening, it gave me a license to never have to listen to anyone ever again. "From that moment on, no one has told me what to do." In 25 years, I have never had anyone say to me, 'Oh Dave, you have to do this.' I'm the president of my record company. I own my entire back catalogue. I get to say when we do this, when we do that. "So if something needs doing, I'll just do it myself. "If I want to write a 25-minute instrumental, write all the music, play all the instruments, film it and then, guess what, maybe never even release it? I'll do it. Just because I can."

## Clarke backs Harington to play Luke Skywalker



**E**milia Clarke would love to see Kit Harington play a young Luke Skywalker. The 31-year-old actress stars alongside Kit in the award-winning TV series 'Game of Thrones', and she's revealed she would like to see the dark-haired hunk play the role of the iconic sci-fi character if he's given his own spin-off 'Star Wars' movie. Asked who could fulfill the role, Emilia - who plays Qi'ra in the new 'Solo: A Star Wars Story' - told 'Entertainment Tonight': "I feel like I have to say Kit Harington. Because I have to, do you know what I mean?" The London-born beauty also revealed just how excited she is about starring in the Ron Howard-directed movie. Emilia explained: "My brother was a huge fan, he's my big brother. I was always gonna do everything he told me to do, so I watched them really young [and] got into them from him. "Then when it all came back the second time around, I became a fan all over again, because it's just ... they've taken it to every level. And then when they wanted me to be in it, I'm like, 'What? OK!'" The long-awaited 'Solo: A Star Wars Story' is released later this month, and Emilia cannot wait for fans of the franchise to see the film. She shared: "I really cannot wait for someone else to know what happens in this movie. Oh my god, I can't wait."

## Bill and Ted could go on without the lead stars in future



**'B**ill & Ted' co-writer Ed Solomon says the franchise could go on and go. It was recently confirmed that Keanu Reeves and Alex Winter are set to reprise their iconic roles as Bill and Ted three decades on and now Solomon says there is the potential for further movies without the main stars, as their daughters are to be introduced in the next movie. Solomon said: "Yeah I mean if this movie works out and people come to see it, yeah then it could go on with Bill and Ted's daughters, I guess. But that's not something that we're really focused on right now. We want to do this first." The duo will be back as Theodore 'Ted' Logan and Bill S Preston Esq in 'Bill & Ted Face The Music', with Alex confirming the news on his Twitter account. He wrote on the social media site: "We're tuning the air guitars. #BT3 (sic)" Producers announced the exciting news at the Cannes Film Festival earlier this week, where it was also announced that writers Chris Matheson and Solomon would return for the sequel with Dean Parisot confirmed as taking the helm of the comedy movie. It will follow the story of Bill and Ted as they deal with their responsibilities to their families now they are coming up to middle age. Keanu had previously teased that there was a 'Bill and Ted' sequel in the works. He said: "Bill and Ted are still alive. The writers have a story and we're trying to make it ... Basically, they're supposed to write a song to save the world and they haven't done that. The pressure of having to save the world, their marriages are falling apart, their kids are kind of mad at them, and then someone comes from the future and tells them if they don't write the song it's just not the world, it's the universe. So they have to save the universe because time is breaking apart." 'Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure' was released in 1989 and 'Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey' was unveiled two years later in 1991.

## Margot Robbie loves her work

**M**argot Robbie doesn't worry about her jam-packed schedule because she loves her job. The Australian star tried her hand at producing for the first time with her new thriller movie 'Terminal' - which she shot in 2016 - and Margot has admitted she didn't mind having to work exhausting hours, as she felt so passionately about the project. Margot, 27 - who stars alongside Simon Pegg and Mike Myers in the film - explained: "We learnt everything on this job, it was the first thing I'd produced so we learnt everything and it was incredibly difficult, but it has made everything since then much easier." Margot was aware of the enormity of the challenge heading into the project. But, ultimately, the blonde beauty didn't mind the extra work, because she was so enthusiastic about getting the film made. She told *Collider*: "Producing's a huge job and being a first-time director, you might as well be a producer as well and Simon obviously produces as well, so we all kind of understand what it really requires to take that responsibility on and it is a huge responsibility. "But you don't do it unless you love it. It's just not worth it if you don't love it, really, it's a lot of time and effort for something unless you're hugely passionate about it. "But when you are doing something you're hugely passionate about, you don't care about the hours or this or that or whatever, and if you're doing it with your friends, old friends and new friends, it's not even work at that point."



## Theron's worth ethic inspired by immigration

**C**harlize Theron says being an immigrant in America encouraged her to work extra hard to make it in Hollywood. The Academy Award-winning actress is currently one of Hollywood's most in-demand stars, but Charlize has admitted that her original ambitions as a performer were much more modest. She explained: "My dream was to pay my bills and not have to get a second job. I loved having the opportunities I got in acting, and I worked hard knowing that those opportunities could be fleeting. "I could be on a flight back to South Africa. I didn't have a family in the US; I didn't have a support system here. That drove me - I was responsible for myself, and I

could not take anything for granted." And despite the success she's subsequently enjoyed in Hollywood, the 42-year-old star has confessed to never feeling fully secure as an actress. Charlize - who has starred in hits such as 'Atomic Blonde' and 'The Fate of the Furious' - told *Total Film* magazine: "I have never felt that. This is common in actors. There are a few I've come across that have a very healthy ego about their status, but I do think this is an industry where there is such a constant turning of new talent, and if you don't stay on your toes, challenge yourself, people won't want to work with you anymore and people won't want to see your movies anymore." — *Bang Showbiz*

## Lifestyle | Movies



(From left) Iranian actress Behnaz Jafari, a translator, Iranian actress Marziyeh Rezaei, the empty seat of Iranian director Jafar Panahi and Iranian director of photography Amin Jafari attend yesterday a press conference for the film '3 Faces (Se Rokh)' at the 71st edition of the Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, southern France. — AFP photos



(From left) Iranian actress and daughter of Jafar Panahi, Solmaz Panahi, Iranian actress Marziyeh Rezaei, Iranian director of photography Amin Jafari, Iranian actress Behnaz Jafari and Iranian film editor Mastaneh Mohajer pose yesterday during a photocall for the film '3 Faces (Se Rokh)'.

## Barred Iranian director gets standing Cannes ovation

The new film by Iran's Jafar Panahi, who is banned from leaving Iran, has premiered to a standing ovation at the Cannes film festival, with a seat left symbolically empty for the dissident director. Panahi's children and the cast of "Three Faces", which is vying for the Palme d'Or top prize, were welcomed with thunderous applause as they arrived for the gala screening late Saturday. The meditative story about the intertwined fate of three Iranian women is one of 21 movies in competition at the world's biggest film festival.

It is the second Iranian work in competition alongside Asghar Farhadi's "Everybody Knows" starring Spanish star couple Penelope Cruz and Javier Bardem. Panahi, 57, was banned from making movies and leaving the country after supporting mass protests in 2009 and making a series of films that critiqued the state of modern Iran. Pleas by Oscar-winning US director Oliver Stone and

other supporters to let him travel to Cannes have fallen on deaf ears in Tehran.

But the bans have not stopped Panahi from working in secret and his 2015 picture "Taxi" won the Golden Bear at the Berlin film festival to the consternation of his conservative critics back home. His new film-starring Panahi himself and veteran actress Behnaz Jafari puts the spotlight on the social and professional problems encountered by Iranian women, especially actresses. Panahi is one of two Palme d'Or contenders to be barred from attending Cannes this year. Russia's Kirill Serebrennikov missed Thursday's premiere of his much-praised film "Leto" after being placed under house arrest in Moscow on embezzlement charges his allies claim are political. — AFP



Iranian actress Marziyeh Rezaei poses yesterday during a photocall for the film '3 Faces (Se Rokh)'.



Iranian actress Behnaz Jafari (right) cries next to Iranian actress Marziyeh Rezaei as they arrive for the screening of the film "3 Faces (Se Rokh)".



Indian actress and model Aishwarya Rai Bachchan poses as she arrives for the screening of the film 'Girls of the Sun (Les Filles du Soleil)' at the 71st edition of the Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, southern France. — AFP photos

## Kurdish women fighters film sparks furious Cannes row



French director Eva Husson (fifth right), French actress Emmanuelle Bercot (third left), Iranian actress Golshifteh Farahani (sixth right), producer Didar Domehri (third right) pose with the President of the CNC Frederique Bredin (left) and the General Delegate of the Cannes Film Festival Thierry Fremaux (second left) as they arrive for the screening of the film 'Girls of the Sun (Les Filles du Soleil)' at the 71st edition of the Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, southern France. — AFP

## 'Star Wars' as big as The Beatles, says Ron Howard

Oscar-winning filmmaker Ron Howard said Saturday directing a movie in the "Star Wars" universe was as daunting as making his Beatles documentary thanks to the intense fan love. Howard, 64, who made the acclaimed "The Beatles: Eight Days a Week" (2016) about the peak years of the Fab Four, told a news conference in southern California he felt just as much pressure on "Solo: A Star Wars Story." "The level of anticipation is unlike anything that I've done. You fall into it and it's amazing. It was a little bit like the Beatles documentary that I took on," said Howard, who won directing and producing Oscars for "A Beautiful Mind" (2002).



Actor and director Ron Howard arrives for the premiere of the film "Solo: A Star Wars Story" in Hollywood, California. — AFP

"I could tell from the moment it was announced, 'Ron, don't (mess) this up.' So I immediately felt the same thing with this. The fans care, and they should care." "Solo," which gets its US release on May 25, charts the adventure-filled past of smuggler Han Solo-made famous in four "Star Wars" movies by Harrison Ford-before he was the galaxy's most adored scoundrel. The second of three planned spin-offs from Disney-owned Lucasfilm, it follows "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story," the second highest grossing movie worldwide in 2016.

The latest episode sees Han meet his mighty future copilot Chewbacca and encounter the notorious gambler Lando Calrissian, in a journey that sets the course of one of the Star Wars saga's most unlikely heroes. "It's really wild. It's really exciting and it's bigger than you can wrap your head around. Particularly being in the Millennium Falcon, is very cool," said Alden Ehrenreich, 28, who stars as the titular hero.

## 'Life-changer'

"You get in and you can't believe you're in it and it's so surreal. And then, a couple months into shooting, you're inside of

it, you're flying it, you know where the buttons are and you're like, 'Okay, this feels like my ship now.'" Donald Glover, known to cool kids the world over as US rapper Childish Gambino, was the only name on Lucasfilm's list to play Lando. One of the world's hottest rising stars, Glover is an award-winning writer, director, musician, stand-up comedian and actor, known for his television work on "Community," "Atlanta" and "30 Rock."

"I love that there are rich people and poor people in this movie," said Glover, who racked up a record-breaking 90 million YouTube views this week with his new single "This is America." "You got to see why Han is complicated. That's a rough world out there and I really love that it's not simple." The closest relationship Han has is with Chewbacca, played by six foot 10 inch (2.08-meter) Finnish basketballer Joonas Suotamo, who took over from Peter Mayhew, starting with "The Force Awakens" (2015). "This was a life-changer to me. I was borderline jobless when I got this role," he said.

"My now fiancée has seen me going from living with my mom to becoming Chewbacca. That's the span of my relationship." The movie, which comes just five months after "Star Wars: The Last Jedi," has endured a journey to screen that has been bumpier than the Millennium Falcon completing the Kessel Run.

## 'Palpable and immersive'

Howard was brought in last year to replace directing duo Phil Lord and Chris Miller ("21 Jump Street"), sacked by Lucasfilm over "creative differences." A self-avowed fanboy, Howard's friendship with "Star Wars" creator George Lucas goes back to when he starred in the filmmaker's 1973 release "American Graffiti." "Solo" was one of the first ideas Lucas, who sold Lucasfilm to Disney for \$4 billion in 2012 — talked about when he outlined his plans for the spin-offs.

Filming took place mostly at Pinewood Studios in Britain, as well as in the Dolomites mountain range in northeastern Italy and Fuerteventura, one of Spain's Canary Islands. Neal Scanlan, who has been Oscar nominated for his creature work on "The Last Jedi" and "The Force Awakens," was once again entrusted with populating the galaxy with its extraordinary array of aliens. His team produced over 500 designs for the creatures while visual effects supervisor Rob Bredow and his 1,200-plus artists oversaw 2,000 visual effects shots, creating all manner of otherworldly environments and spacecraft. — AFP

A harrowing film about Kurdish women fighters taking on Islamic State jihadists sparked a furious row between critics at the Cannes film festival yesterday—with some being accused of misogyny. "Girls of the Sun", which follows a platoon of Yazidi women battling the extremists who had enslaved them and their children, was premiered at the same time as one person was killed and four others wounded in a knife attack in Paris claimed by IS. The movie, with Iranian star Golshifteh Farahani as a lawyer who picks up an AK47 to lead the Sun Brigade of survivors, is set in Kurdistan in the days leading up to the November 13 Paris terror attacks, in which 130 people died. The premiere followed a historic protest on the Cannes red carpet by Hollywood stars and female filmmakers demanding equal pay and an end to sexism. But as the curtain came down, a shouting match erupted at a nearby screening for critics. A small number who had booed the film were shouted down by others, who accused them of disrespecting the film's female director and cast. "It's not about you, dude. Not your time to talk," one said. The divide was equally stark in the first reviews published Sunday, with the French magazine Telerama calling the war film "naive and inconsequential", while others said it was a "disservice to a noble cause".

not to be moved by it and called it a "surefire Palme (d'Or) contender", referring to the festival's top prize. He conceded that there "was a little too much paprika on the sandwich where none would have done nice, but (French director) Eva Husson is one hell of a filmmaker." French producer Claudine Nougaret Depardon took to Twitter to condemn the "misogynous and condescending attitude to this beautiful and courageous film."

"Let's fight to demand the early retirement for these (male) critics," she added. The Guardian's Peter Bradshaw also rallied to its defiance, hailing it as a rousing "feminist war movie: impassioned, suspenseful, angry". While admitting that some might find it naive and "unsophisticated... for me it is heartfelt, forthright and muscular." But several French critics excoriated Husson's handling of the story, arguing that some of the women characters were paper thin.

The Hollywood Reporter was also critical of its "narrative histrionics and a tear-jerking score worthy of a Walt Disney movie". But it praised Husson for "shining a light on an important and terrifying story that made headlines a few years ago but has since been forgotten by many of us." Overall, critic Jordan Mintzer called it "a meaty all-female war movie served with an extra slice of cheese." — AFP

## 'Condescending' critics

But IndieWire's David Ehrlich said it was impossible



(From third left) Iranian writer Amir Naderi, US actor Michael B. Jordan, Algerian actress Sofia Boutella, US actor Michael Shannon, US director Ramin Brahani and US producer Sarah Green pose as they arrive on May 12, 2018 for the screening of the film 'Fahrenheit 451' at the 71st edition of the Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, southern France. — AFP



# As price comes down, risk goes up for Everest 'trophy hunters'



climbers at Everest Base Camp practicing their techniques on the Khumbu glacier before trying to summit Everest.

Everest is the ultimate mountaineering "trophy", but the rising number of inexperienced climbers attempting to tackle the summit are running huge risks to reach the top of the world. An Indian airline pilot, a builder from Ohio and a former online media sales executive are all waiting at base camp for a chance to scale the 8,848 meter (29,030 foot) mountain this climbing season. They haul themselves up the same ropes to the top and face the same dangers of frostbite, avalanche and exhaustion—and yet they pay vastly different amounts for the privilege. Cheaper fees means far more people can attempt a lifelong dream of conquering the world's highest peak, but there are grim predictions that an increasing number will never make it home.

Critics warn bargain operators—who have slashed the price of an Everest ticket to as low as \$20,000 — accept even the most inexperienced climbers. Meanwhile, more expensive rivals, who charge around \$70,000, have smaller teams and require proven climbing ability from clients. "It's a huge goal and a dream of mine to stand on top of the world," said Matt Brennan, who runs a construction company in the United States, and paid US-based Alpine Ascents \$65,000 to try his first 8,000 meter climb. "I always wanted to climb



British climber Daniel Horne (right) preparing his gear in his tent at Everest Base Camp.

attempt if he fails. "Unless they tell me to turn around, I'm going to keep going," said Horne.

### More deaths

Concerns about paying clients have haunted Everest since the dawn of commercial expeditions. Many predicted a turning point after 1996 when eight people died descending from Everest's summit, among them those with limited experience at extreme altitude. "With enough determination, any bloody idiot can get up this hill. The trick is to get back down alive," Rob Hall—a guide that year—reportedly said. But critics say Hall and rival guide Scott Fischer, who both died that season, were too focused on their clients' investment in getting to the summit. "There are more incidents because people get into trouble because they have not learned how not to get into trouble. This is things such as dealing with altitude, even just technical climbing skills," said Cotter.

Many long-time Everest operators warn that inexperience—among climbers and operators—will lead to more deaths. "I predict that we'll have more fatalities on the mountain until the operators mature," said Russell Brice, owner of Himalayan Experience, who has been taking people up Everest since 1994. He also blamed the attitude of some climbers. "Summit fever is a real disease. People just go on. It's the blaseness of 'It's just a toe'," he said, referring to the risk of losing digits to frostbite. Indian pilot Sandeep Mansukhani hopes to bag his first major peak with Nepal-based company Asian Trekking, which charges around \$30,000.

He said: "For people who are just starting, trying it for the first time, why not? Somebody has to try it, there has to be a chance given to everyone." But Everest guide Ang Tshering Lama, who last year rescued a climber and his guide who refused to turn around and give up his \$20,000 fee, pointed the finger at climbers' egos. "People say, 'I climbed'. But they can't say 'I am a climber'," said Lama. "You need to be a climber to be on this mountain." — AFP

another 180 climbing from Tibet, foreshadowing a bumper year. Last year six people died. Guy Cotter, who has been guiding on Everest for 27 years, warned that many new climbers lack experience. "Nowadays people can go on the internet and buy the cheapest expedition onto the mountain. But there is no criteria for experience with some of these operators," said the owner of New Zealand-based Adventure Consultants. "They are not mountaineers. They are just people who want to claim the prize of climbing Mount Everest. They are hunting for that trophy."

Tenzing Norgay, the first man to summit Everest together with New Zealander Edmund Hillary in 1953, only reached the top on his seventh attempt. Today amateur climbers expect to do it on their first try, prompting many to take higher risks blinded by "summit fever" and lulled into a false sense of security by the thousands who have succeeded before. "Someone else has done this before me, so why can't I do it?" said 33-year-old Briton Daniel Horne, who used to work in online media. Horne paid \$70,000 to climb Everest—his second 8,000 meter mountain—and said it would take years to find the money and time to make another



Indian climber Sandeep Mansukhani during an interview with AFP at Everest Base Camp.

“ It's a huge goal and a dream of mine to stand on top of the world ”



Guy Cotter during an interview with AFP at Everest Base Camp.

the big ones and I felt that if I'm going to do it now is the time," said the 57-year-old, who set his sights on Everest two years ago after tackling North America's highest mountain, Denali, at 6,194 meters.

### Crowded slopes

In the 1980s the Nepal government only allowed one team per route on Everest, which meant only a handful of experienced climbers with national teams or those with major sponsorship deals could get a foothold. Since the limit was scrapped in the 1990s operators have crowded the slopes for a slice of the lucrative industry. This year there are 346 paying climbers on the south side in Nepal—just shy of the record 373 permits granted in 2017 — and



Climbers at Everest Base Camp practicing their techniques on the Khumbu glacier.



Expedition tents at Everest Base Camp.



Climbers doing rituals before leaving Everest Base Camp.



Climbers at Everest Base Camp practicing their technique on the Khumbu glacier.

# Lifestyle

MONDAY, MAY 14, 2018



Filmmakers, actresses and producers raise their arms as they clap after the Australian actress and President of the Jury Cate Blanchett with other filmmakers read a statement on the steps of the red carpet in protest of the lack of female filmmakers throughout the history of the festival at the screening of 'Girls of The Sun (Les Filles Du Soleil)' during the 71st annual Cannes Film Festival at the Palais des Festivals in Cannes, southeastern France. — AFP

## Rockefeller Collection sold for record-smashing \$832 million

In what was billed as the "sale of the century," the art collection of Peggy and David Rockefeller, comprising 1,500 pieces, sold at auction for a record-breaking \$832.5 million, Christie's said Friday. The figure eclipsed the previous record held by the collection of Yves Saint Laurent and Pierre Berge which sold for \$484 million in 2009. Coming after the extraordinary \$450 million sale last November of Leonardo da Vinci's "Salvator Mundi," also at Christie's, there had been some speculation that the billion dollar threshold could be crossed by this sale. Organized over 10 days, including online sales, it nonetheless broke numerous records, testament to the rude health of the global art market.

### Picasso's painting to be loaned to Paris museum

Picasso's "Young Girl With Basket of Flowers," recently sold at a New York auction for \$115 million, will be loaned to Paris's Musee d'Orsay for a Picasso exhibit opening in September. "We're very happy," a museum spokesperson said Saturday in confirming the loan, first reported in The New York Times. The painting was purchased at auction Tuesday by the Nahmads, a family of art dealers and collectors that includes Helly Nahmad, owner of a New York gallery, according to two



'The Rivals' by Diego Rivera is seen during a Christie's preview presenting the collection of Peggy and David Rockefeller, in New York. — AFP

sources quoted by the Times. Nahmad did not respond to an AFP request, through his gallery, for comment.

The Musee d'Orsay's "Picasso: Blue and Rose" exhibit is being organized in collaboration with the Picasso Museum-Paris and will focus on the artist's work from 1900-1906, encompassing his critically important Blue Period and Rose Period. It will run from September 18 to January 6, 2019. The exhibit will then move to the Beyeler Foundation near Basel, Switzerland, from February 3 to May 26, with a modified set of paintings. It is not clear whether the "Young Girl" will be part of that show.

### Record-breaking sale

The painting, from 1905, was part of a major auction by Christie's of the extensive collection of the late US banker David Rockefeller and his wife Peggy. "Young Girl," which the American collector Gertrude Stein and her brother Leo had purchased directly from the artist, was sold for the sixth-highest sum ever attained by a painting at auction, expenses and commissions included. Four paintings by Picasso (1881-1973) have now been sold for more than \$100 million each. No other painter has seen more than one piece of art reach that rarefied level.

Claude Monet's "Nymphs en fleurs" fetched \$84.6 million, a new record for the French impressionist master, surpassing a previous high of \$81.4 million. The auction also saw a record breaking sale for Henri Matisse's "Odalisque couchee aux magnolias," which went for \$80.7 million. Latin American art meanwhile also hit a new peak with the sale of Diego Rivera's "Los Rivaless" for \$9.7 million, a new record for art from the region.

David Rockefeller, the grandson of the legendary magnate John Rockefeller, died last year aged 101, more than 20 years after the death of his wife Peggy. He had embraced his family's tradition of philanthropy and inherited his taste in art from his mother, who co-founded New York's Museum of Modern Art. The proceeds will go to a series of nonprofit organizations, including David Rockefeller's alma mater Harvard University, as well as Maine National Park, which was beloved by the family and to which he donated a thousand acres for his 100th birthday. — AFP

## US museum explores Louise Bourgeois, beyond the spiders

There's something deeply unsettling about navigating through the latest Louise Bourgeois exhibition, an experience that feels like trespassing in the late French-American artist's psyche. A five-decade survey that opened Thursday at the private Glenstone museum in the town of Potomac, Maryland outside Washington explores the breadth of deeply autobiographical, sexually-charged creations by this prolific artist, best known for her giant metal spider sculptures displayed around the world.

Traumatized as a child by her philandering father's infidelities, including with her nanny, Bourgeois took a revenge of sorts with "The Destruction of the Father" (1974), her first large-scale installation. A red-lit room lined in soft fabric suggests a womb-like bedroom/dining room, but also a crime scene. Abstract blobs represent children who have rebelled against their overbearing father, murdered him and eaten him up, his body reduced to lamb shoulders and chicken legs cast in soft plaster. "So he was liquidated... the same way he had liquidated his children," Bourgeois once said about the piece.

Nothing surprising, really, for someone who said "art is a guarantee of sanity." The ferocious aspects of Bourgeois's femininity are on display in an untitled piece from 1996 that's a macabre take on a mobile or clothing tree, with fine undergarments hanging from huge bones. Jerry Gorovoy, Bourgeois's longtime assistant who now leads the Easton Foundation dedicated to her life and work, recalled that the artist kept most of her old clothes—including from her childhood—and used them for her creations.



A woman looks at "He Disappeared into Complete Silence" (1947-2005), a limited edition book of 11 engravings by Louise Bourgeois, at Glenstone museum in Potomac, Maryland.

"Ode to la Bievre" (2002), an embroidered book made of fabric pieces, pays tribute to the tannin-rich river that ran near the Bourgeois family's tapestry restoration workshop. In "Cell (Choisy)" (1990-1993), Bourgeois placed a guillotine in front of a reproduction of her childhood home in hollow flesh-colored marble inside a metal enclosure lined with knocked out windows.

There are architectural qualities to "He Disappeared into Complete Silence," a book of engravings and letterpress text Bourgeois first made in 1947, here in an edition she reworked through 2005. Various figures are represented as large, inhuman structures in a world where communication is often problematic. On one page, a tall figure holds up a smaller one. Bourgeois's accompanying parable: "Once a man was angry at his wife, he cut her into small pieces, made a stew of her. Then he telephoned to his friends and

asked them for a cocktail-and-stew party. They all came and had a good time."

### 'Unparalleled'

Glenstone founders Mitch and Emily Rales amassed this varied assemblage of the artist's works over just a few years. Having an in-house collection has its advantages. Totem-like wood structures were drilled directly into the floor as they were originally intended to be shown, rather than fixed on a metal base, as other museums have traditionally done.

Gorovoy called Glenstone's holdings of late pieces in particular "unparalleled." "To take this in-depth trajectory is really significant," he said. There's a series of six hand-colored etchings, "I Give Everything Away," that Bourgeois created in 2010, the year she died at the age of 98. The elderly artist here made her final goodbyes with messages such as "I am packing my bags" in shaky handwriting alongside large images of humans, plants or abstract forms.

After taking this journey, it's a relief to step into Glenstone's carefully manicured landscape of rolling hills, meadows and woodlands, the air filled with birdsongs and the sun-tinged fragrance of spring. "Louise Bourgeois: To Unravel a Torment" runs through January 2020, with a temporary closure in September as Glenstone prepares to unveil on October 4 the site's stunning expansion that will make it America's biggest private art museum.—AFP



A woman looks at "Je t'aime" (2005), a series of 60 double-sided drawings by Louise Bourgeois, at Glenstone museum in Potomac, Maryland. — AFP photos